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ANNUAL REPORTS ON THE STATE OF THE COLONIES

1857-60

Colonies General

9

SHANNON · IRELAND

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THE

REPORTS

Made for the Year 1856 *to the Secretary of State having the Department of the Colonies; in continuation of the Reports annually made by the Governors of the British Colonies, with a view to exhibit generally*

*

THE PAST AND PRESENT STATE

OF

HER MAJESTY'S COLONIAL POSSESSIONS.

TRANSMITTED WITH THE BLUE BOOKS
For the Year 1856.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
1 *June* 1858.

LONDON:
PRINTED BY GEORGE EDWARD EYRE AND WILLIAM SPOTTISWOODE,
PRINTERS TO THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.
FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE.
1858.



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PART I.

NORTH AMERICAN COLONIES.

PART I.—NORTH AMERICAN COLONIES.

CANADA.

CANADA.

No. 1.

No. 1.

EXTRACT of DESPATCH from Governor-General Sir EDMUND HEAD to the Right Honourable H. LABOUCHERE, M.P., dated Government House, Toronto, June 16, 1857.

(No. 93.) (Received July 3, 1857.)

I NOW proceed to comment partially on the substance of the information conveyed in this Blue Book for 1856; but I am happy to say that the uniform prosperity and tranquillity of Canada during the past year leave me but little to add to the results visible on the face of these documents.

With regard to the various functionaries employed in the colony, the increased cost of living, and the expenses thrown on individuals in consequence of the removal of the seat of government in 1855, had led in many cases to an increase of salaries and emoluments. I do not think that more has been done in this direction than was required by the altered state of the colony, and by the augmented price of all necessaries of life. The article of house-rent alone has fallen very heavily on those clerks and other public servants who have been compelled to transfer their residence to Toronto. This city is increasing every day by new buildings, but as yet the rents of houses of a moderate size remain exorbitantly high.

Public Accounts, Vol. II.

The statement of expenditure and revenue at pages 10 and 11 of this return shows a gross revenue of the year, amounting £1,497,385 18 7 currency (equal to £1,230,728 3 2 sterling).

That of 1855 was £1,217,541 14 11 currency (equal to £1,000,719 4 10 sterling).

The net amount of customs duties levied in 1855 and 1856 respectively was

1855 - £813,819 11 3 currency = £668,892 15 10 sterling.
1856 - £1,028,905 9 2 „ = £845,675 14 4 „

The gross amount of expenditure, including interest on the public debt, was in

1855 - £1,194,880 13 9 currency = £982,093 14 4 sterling.
1856 - £1,309,433 14 0 „ = £1,076,246 16 9 „

It must be borne in mind that an increase in the tariff took place in the last session of Parliament, more especially with a view to meet the charge thrown on the province for interest on its debentures advanced to the Grand Trunk Railway Company.

Post Office, Vol. VI.

In my despatch accompanying the Blue Book for 1855 I stated my reasons for attaching great importance to the progress of post office accommodation as a symptom and cause of improvement. It is unnecessary for me to repeat these views.

The number of post offices in operation in Canada in March 1855 was 1,293, in March 1856 1,375, being an increase of 82. The number of miles of annual mail travel increased from 4,559,761 to 4,803,285. The number of letters passing through the post office in one week in the two years was respectively as follows:—

1855 - - - - -	116,671
1856 - - - - -	135,474

The quantity of wheat shipped by sea from Canada in 1856 shows a remarkable increase over the returns of 1855.

1855 - - - - - - 110,531 Bushels.
1856 - - - - - - 633,905 „

The relative number and tonnage of vessels cleared outwards and entered at Canadian ports in these years was

1855	Cleared inward	1,168 -	419,533 Tons.
	Cleared outward	1,219 -	451,241 „
1856	Cleared inward	1,494 -	550,573 „
	Cleared outward	1,532 -	573,648 „

With regard to the timber trade, I desire particularly to call attention to some valuable remarks in the report of the late chief commissioner of crown lands (pp. 65–79), which point out the derangement of the trade, arising in many cases from the different interests of the lumberer who gets the wood out of the forest and the merchant who ships it at Quebec.

Without committing myself to an approval of all that is stated in this report, I do not hesitate to express an opinion that a decided change is required in the general management of the crown lands and timber department. The details are, however, so complicated, and the faults of administration (where they exist) are of such old standing, that great caution is required in dealing with the whole subject.

The working of the reciprocity treaty with the United States, so successfully negociated by my predecessor, the Earl of Elgin, appears to me very favourable to Canada, or perhaps I should rather say very advantageous to all parties concerned in it. The following statements will show the export of horses and cattle across the frontier of Canada and the United States.

1856.	£	*s.*	*d.*	
Horses exported to the United States - Value	122,873	4	6	currency.
Horses imported from the United States - „	53,797	19	6	„
Difference - -	69,075	5	0	„
Oxen and bulls exported - - - Value	76,921	16	3	„
„ imported - - - „	48,894	0	4	„
Difference - -	28,027	15	11	„
Cows exported - - - - - Value	69,346	13	7	„
„ imported - - - - „	4,194	7	6	„
Difference - -	65,152	6	1	„
Sheep exported - - - - Value	20,011	15	3	„
„ imported - - - - „	6,363	16	11	„
Difference - -	13,647	18	4	„

In horses the principal export was from Montreal, Brockville, and especially Prescott.

Another great feature which will mark the year 1856 is the opening of the Grand Trunk Railway from St. Thomas below Quebec to Stratford, 88 miles west of Toronto. The communication in winter between Quebec and Montreal, Montreal and Kingston, Kingston and Toronto, has, until the present year, been precarious and sometimes even dangerous.

Making due allowance for the imperfect organization of a new railway staff over so extensive a line, and for the defects incident to so great an undertaking in a new country, our present communications may be pronounced safe and expeditious. A man starting from Toronto may, if he desires it, reach Quebec in less than 24 hours, even in winter. The quantity of freight offered for transport in the western portion of this line in the course of the winter just ended has been at times larger than the present rolling stock of the company enabled them to carry. This fact furnishes the best evidence of the advantage

which this line is destined to afford to the public. By far the larger portion of such freight must, under former circumstances, have lain idle for months in the hands of the producer, waiting for the opening of the navigation, or it must have been demanded by the wants of the retail dealer and consumer long before it could have been brought to their door. The traffic on the Great Western Railway, running from Windsor to the suspension bridge across the Niagara River, has become very large. A great number of cattle and pigs are transported across Canada into the United States by this line from the states westward of the Detroit River. The length and frequency of the trains carrying these animals is, at certain times, very remarkable.

Among the most important facts belonging to the year 1856 I ought to place that of the introduction of a complete municipal system into Lower Canada. The year will be referred to hereafter in the annals of the province, as marking the commencement of a great change. The experiment is scarcely a doubtful one; its success in Upper Canada warrants a confident hope that the same benefits will ensue from its adoption in the lower division of the colony.

It is true that difficulties have occurred and will occur in the working of these new municipal arrangements. The forms were strange at first to the French population. In some places unfounded apprehensions existed as to the increased expense to be thrown on the inhabitants of the country, whose habits and prejudices have inclined them to look in all things for the action of a central rather than a local executive. These misapprehensions will, I doubt not, be gradually removed. The Lower Canadians will learn to appreciate institutions which have so powerfully aided the progress of their brethren, and they will become convinced that the aim and object of municipal government is to enable men to manage their own affairs, control the expenditure of their own money, watch over their own local interests, and, when circumstances may require it, to bring the free public opinion of each municipal council to bear on the government of their own common country.

Under section 79. of the Act it is open to every rural municipality by a formal resolution submitted to the Governor in Council to adopt either the French or English language as that officially to be used in all municipal acts. If the officers of the municipality are not elected within a given time (45 days), the Governor may nominate fit and proper persons to carry on the business (sect. 36). The same powers of raising money on their own credit for public improvements as exist in Upper Canada will be now enjoyed by the municipalities of the lower portion of the province.

These institutions will, I trust, take root and flourish, and Her Majesty's subjects of French origin will then exhibit a capacity for local self-government and a spirit of progress, the want of which have sometimes been imputed to them as a defect. I venture to hope that the result will contrast in the strongest manner with the old picture of centralization in Canada a hundred years ago, as drawn—not by an unfriendly or a foreign hand—but by a French writer of consummate ability, who says of that system:

"On se trouve en présence de cette administration presque aussi nombreuse "que la population, prépondérante, agissante, réglementante, contraignante, "voulant prévoir tout, se chargeant de tout, toujours plus au courant des "interêts de l'administré qu'il ne l'est lui-même, sans cesse active et stérile." (Tocqueville L'Ancien Régime, p. 409.)

In conclusion, I have only to say that the province is rapidly advancing in material properity, that the feeling of the population is loyal and true to the Queen, and that there is every reason to hope for the continuance of a sound and sober exercise of the powers of parliamentary government with which it is entrusted.

In connection with this latter point, I cannot forbear from offering some observations of a somewhat speculative character on the inestimable value of the union of Upper and Lower Canada, not with reference to the material interests so much as to the moral discipline and political conduct of their rulers. Whatever difficulties may attend our progress, whatever storms may threaten to ruffle or disturb the current of our political course, there is always one consolation. If it is difficult for any statesmen to stem their way amid the mingled interests and conflicting opinions of Catholic and Protestant, Upper and Lower Canadian, French and English, Scotch and Irish, constantly crossing and thwarting one another, it is probably to the action of these very cross

interests and these conflicting opinions that the whole united province will, under providence, in the end owe its liberal policy and its final success.

In such circumstances, constitutional and parliamentary government cannot be carried on except by a vigilant and careful attention to the reasonable demands of all races and of all religious interests. No ministry could afford to aid in Upper Canada Protestant fanaticism in a reckless crusade against Roman Catholic rights and interests, or could venture to support in Lower Canada the bigotry of any Catholics in oppressing the Protestant population. I do not affirm that such a disposition is likely to show itself in either section, but I assert that if it did exist, it could not, so long as the Canadas are one province, hold its ground as a principle guiding the government for a single session of Parliament. Whatever may be the personal convictions and whatever may be the religious belief of a Canadian politician, if he means to lead his countrymen as a whole, he must school his mind to principles of toleration, and he must learn to respect the feelings and even the prejudices of others who differ widely from himself. Among the first lessons which he must acquire is that which England has at length through bitter experience been taught in Ireland. He must imbibe the conviction that there are two sides to every question with which a statesman has to deal.

In my opinion, therefore, Sir, the union is invaluable both to Upper and Lower Canada. Its evils are fully compensated for, and the very conflict of races and opinions which makes our present course difficult and dangerous, holds out to the whole united province as its ultimate result the surest hope of sound self-government and individual freedom.

Speculations of this kind are not perhaps in their place in this Despatch; but I rejoice to think there can be no omen for the future happiness of a new country better than the existence of a state of things which makes consideration by every man for the feelings of others, and mutual forbearance on the part of all, the indispensable conditions of lasting political power and wide social influence.

NOVA SCOTIA.

[*The Annual Report for* 1856 *has not been received from the Province of Nova Scotia.*]

NEW BRUNSWICK.

No. 2.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Lieut.-Governor the Hon. J. H. T. Manners Sutton to the Right Hon. H. Labouchere, M.P.

(No. 31.)

Government House,
Fredericton, New Brunswick,
December 23, 1857.
(Received January 26, 1858.)

Sir,

1. I have the honour to forward to you, herein enclosed, the Blue Book for the past year, 1856.

2. Acting upon the suggestions contained in your Despatch Circular of 24th April last, I have obtained, and I now transmit to you, copies of several of the most important departmental reports and accounts, which throw additional light on the subjects to which they relate respectively, and on the general condition of the Province. These reports and accounts are annually laid before the Assembly, and appear in the Appendix to the Journals of the House of Assembly, (copies of which Journals are periodically sent to you,) but hitherto they have not, with few exceptions, been printed separately, and they have therefore been comparatively valueless, even in the Province, for any

NEW BRUNSWICK.

purpose, other than that of reference by members of the provincial legislature, or other persons directly engaged in the conduct of the public business of the Province. Arrangements, however, will hereafter be made for printing them in such a shape as will render all, or any one of them, available for circulation both in and out of the Province.

3. The past year, 1856, was not, so far as this Province was concerned, fruitful in events which require in this Despatch any special notice or remark from me.

4. It is, however, right that I should advert to the recommencement (as Government works, under the Railway Acts passed in 1856, 19 Vict. chapters 14, 15, 16, 17, 18,) of operations on the line of railway (from St. John to Shediac) previously commenced by the European and North American Railway Company, and to the renewed prosecution by the New Brunswick and Canada Railway and Land Company (to which company the undertaking was transferred under the provisions of the Act 19 Vict. c. 70.) of the line of railway from St. Andrew's to Woodstock (intended eventually to extend to Quebec) which had been commenced by the St. Andrew's and Quebec Railway Company. Operations on both these lines of railway had been suspended for some time, but were recommenced in 1856, and have been continued ever since without interruption.

5. You will observe that the tables both of imports and of exports for 1856 exhibit an increase over the corresponding tables for the preceding year; but I do not think that the year 1856 could with propriety be termed a prosperous year even for the commerce of the Province; and as regards agriculture, it certainly was the reverse, for although the grain crop was probably of an average character both in quality and quantity, the crop of potatoes (which are extensively cultivated here) was scanty in quantity and severely tainted (and in some districts almost destroyed) by the "disease."

6. But the general condition of the people of the Province was, upon the whole, very satisfactory; and while I am denied the gratification of being able to adduce proofs of any sudden or remarkable accession to the wealth or increase of the trade of the Province during the twelve months referred to in the returns enclosed in this Despatch, I am nevertheless convinced that to those who estimate the prospects of a community, not by the progress made by them in a few months, but by their steady and continuous advance during a succession of years, the past history of this Province and its present condition afford ample encouragement for the future.

7. Among the documents which accompany this Despatch you will observe the Report of a Commission on Agriculture. This Report does not properly belong to the year 1856, for although the Commission was appointed at the close of that year, the Report was not presented to me until a few months ago. But it nevertheless throws light on the condition and prospects of agriculture in the Province during the year 1856, and I have thought it right to transmit it to you.

8. Before I close this Despatch I desire to state that I hope to be able to forward to you the Blue Book Despatch for the present year, 1857, at a period less distant from that to which it will relate than has usually been the case.

There is, it appears to me, a double disadvantage in sending to Her Majesty's Government an exposition of what was the state of affairs in the Province some twelve or even twenty months previously. Firstly, the subjects to which the Despatch relates have lost their freshness in the mind of the writer, and even where this is not the case, subsequent events (on which, as they relate to a different period, he can but cursorily touch,) may have rendered and in many instances do render the account given, although true as regards the time to which it relates, incorrect or at least incomplete if that account be regarded as an explanation of the condition of the Province at the time when the Despatch is received.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. H. T. MANNERS SUTTON.

The Right Hon. H. Labouchere, M.P.,
&c. &c.

LIST of RETURNS and ACCOUNTS forwarded in duplicate with Despatch No. 31., December 23, 1857.

1. Provincial Treasury Accounts.
2. Receiver General's Accounts.
3. Customs Returns.
4. Crown Land Office Returns.
5. Public Works Report and Accounts.
6. Postmaster General's Report.
7. Education Report and Accounts of King's College.
8. Provincial Penitentiary.
9. Provincial Lunatic Asylum.
10. Lighthouse Reports and Accounts.
11. Board of Health, St. John.
12. Return of Banks and Incorporated Companies.
13. Steamboat Inspector's Report.
14. Agricultural Commission Report.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

No. 3.

EXTRACT of DESPATCH from Lieutenant-Governor Sir D. DALY to the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE, M.P., dated Government House, Prince Edward Island, January 5, 1858.

(No. 1.) (Received January 26, 1858.)

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the Blue Book of this colony for 1856 in duplicate.

There is nothing that calls for special notice in the returns of revenue and expenditure for 1856 as compared with those of the preceding year, and indeed the same may be said of every portion of these returns.

The progress of the colony in material improvement, though not rapid, may under all circumstances be considered satisfactory.

The fisheries are attracting somewhat more attention, and not at any sacrifice of agricultural pursuits, which still continue to be the favourite occupation of the people.

The present state of commercial matters however is very much affected by the monetary pressure which has been and still is so universally felt, but, except to those who have been engaged in ship-building, there appears reason to hope that the consequences will not ultimately be very injurious.

A very considerable diminution has taken place in the prices of all agricultural produce, the effect of which, however, upon that branch of industry is much mitigated by the abundance of the last harvest, which has the further advantage of affording cheap food to the unusual number of hands at present out of employment.

I regret that I am unable to report any favourable alteration in the state of the militia, for the increased efficiency of which no provision has as yet been made by the legislature.

NEW-FOUNDLAND.

NEWFOUNDLAND.

No. 4.

No. 4.

COPY of DESPATCH from Governor Sir ALEXANDER BANNERMAN to the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE, M.P.

(No. 84.)

Government House, St. John's, Newfoundland, November 3, 1857.

SIR, (Received November 30, 1857.)

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith the Blue Book for this colony for the year 1856. It was prepared some time ago, but, by inadvertence, had lain in the secretary's office.

2. As I only arrived at St. John's on the 10th of June last, I shall abstain from making any observations on the state of Newfoundland until a future opportunity, farther than that I am happy to say the fishery for this season has been a good one, that the population has been fully employed, earning good wages, and I trust that there will be less pauperism prevailing among them than has been the case for several years past.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. BANNERMAN.

The Right Hon. H. Labouchere, M.P.,
&c. &c.

BERMUDA.

BERMUDA.

No. 5.

No. 5.

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Governor MURRAY to the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE, M.P., dated Bermuda, June 22, 1857.

(No. 72.) (Received July 13, 1857.)

HEREWITH I have the honour to forward the Blue Book for the year 1856.

* * * *

I shall forward the Duplicate Blue Book by the next mail, with my remarks thereon.

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Governor MURRAY to the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE, M.P., dated Government House, Bermuda, August 3, 1857.

(No. 82.) (Received September 7, 1857.)

THE year 1856 may be looked upon as an exceptional year, for the prevalence of epidemic yellow fever caused so much disturbance to trade and agriculture that it would be impossible to judge of the condition of either from the returns of that year; it is only remarkable that the colony did not suffer greater loss in its material interests under such unfavourable circumstances.

PART II.

WEST INDIES, MAURITIUS, AND THE SEYCHELLES ISLANDS.

PART II.—WEST INDIES, MAURITIUS, AND THE SEYCHELLES ISLANDS.

JAMAICA.

JAMAICA.

No. 6.

No. 6.

COPY of DESPATCH from Governor DARLING to the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE, M.P.

(No. 42.)

King's House, November 26, 1857.

SIR, (Received December 19, 1857.)

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith the Blue Book (in original) of this colony for the year 1856.

2. Upon my arrival in Jamaica, towards the end of the month of July last, I found that the book was far from complete, arising principally from the fact that some of the information necessary to its proper compilation had not been received. Efforts have since been made to obtain the necessary returns; but a further delay has thus been unavoidable, and I fear that even now the document is in some respects defective.

3. At this late period of the year, when the legislature is actively engaged in business which demands my daily attention, I should have appealed to your consideration to excuse me from making the usual Report to accompany the Blue Book, had it not occurred to me that as the period to which it relates terminated seven months before my assumption of the Government it would probably under that circumstance not be expected or required that I should enter upon a task which can hardly be usefully discharged without personal experience of the public occurrences of the year.

I have, &c.

(Signed) C. H. DARLING.

The Right Hon. H. Labouchere, M.P.,
&c. &c. &c.

HONDURAS.

HONDURAS.

No. 7.

No. 7.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant Governor BELL to the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE, M.P.

(No. 34.)

King's House, Jamaica, June 24, 1857.

SIR, (Received July 17, 1857.)

I HAVE the honour to transmit Mr. Superintendent Seymour's Despatch forwarding the "Blue Book" for 1856, as also the Report thereon which I received from Mr. Stevenson prior to his departure from the settlement.

I have, &c.

(Signed) E. W. BELL.

The Right Hon. H. Labouchere, M.P.,
&c. &c. &c.

Encl. 1 in No. 7.

Enclosure 1 in No. 7.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Mr. Superintendent SEYMOUR to Lieutenant Governor BELL.

(No. 13.)

SIR, Belize, May 28, 1857,

I HAVE the honour to forward in duplicate the Blue Book of the settlement of British Honduras for the year 1856.

My predecessor, in his Despatch, No. 22, of the 2d of March, furnished a Report on the contents of the volume I now transmit.

I have, &c.

His Excellency (Signed) FREDERICK SEYMOUR.
Lieut. Governor Major General Bell.

Encl. 2 in No. 7.

Enclosure 2 in No. 7.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Mr. Superintendent STEVENSON to Lieutenant Governor BELL.

(No. 22.)

SIR, Government House, Belize, March 2, 1857.

THE usual time has not yet arrived for the completion and transmissal of the "Blue Book Returns" of the transactions of last year; but, on the eve of my removal from this Government, and of the arrival of my successor, I have pressed for their earlier completion, in order that I may be afforded the final opportunity of making the customary Report thereon, and thereby saving to my successor the circuitous duty of furnishing such Report from the information he would necessarily be obliged to derive from other sources of knowledge than his own, stranger as he will be to all the last year's occurrences in this settlement.

At the time of writing this Report those Returns are not yet completed, and I fear they may not be in time to accompany this Report by the present packet; but, if not, they will, when transmitted be referred to this Despatch for any information it may afford, and will be made up as usual on the Colonial Secretary's responsibility.

Taxes, Duties, &c.

There was no material alteration during the January Session of 1856 in the taxes and duties imposed in the previous year beyond a small additional duty on imported spirits, equal to the duty on home-made spirits which it was in contemplation to impose during that January Session, but which was not imposed until the August Special Session; but at that August Special Session it became necessary to raise an additional revenue to meet the casualties of the fire which occurred last Midsummer, and to provide a fund to be additionally pledged for certain improvements to the town which the ravages of the fire rendered it expedient to make, as well as to liquidate some unforeseen expenses which had been incurred by the sanitary board, which latter, however, fell on the general revenue, in consequence of this intended tax in aid not having been immediately available for such unforeseen expenses.

It was in vain attempted to induce the Legislature to pass a local rate or tax for the defrayal of these local demands,—a course of direct taxation to which they have always exhibited an unconquerable aversion,—and the result was the imposition, for the first time, of a duty of 2*s.* per cwt. on sugar, and 1*s.* a gallon on spirits manufactured in the northern district and consumed in the settlement, being the same duty that was in contemplation at the previous January Session, but not then imposed.

The specific pledge of a tax of this sort on the manufactures of a distant district, for payment of the local burdens of a town in which the taxpayers did not reside, was only justifiable under the circumstances of the entire revenue of the settlement (with trifling exceptions) being drawn from "imports," and of those imports having greatly fallen off in those two items of sugar and spirits, by reason of the recent and extended manufacture of such commodities in the northern district for consumption in the settlement.

HONDURAS.

An attempt has again been made, during the session lately terminated, to substitute a local tax or town rate, for taxes specially devoted to the town improvements, but with the same results, although some modification has been made, which has rendered the duties on these home-made sugars and spirits less distasteful to the manufacturers of the northern district.

Comparative Statement of Revenue and Expenditure.

In these tables there would still have been exhibited a continuing diminution of the imported sugar and spirit duties (notwithstanding the large importation of spirits that was required to supply the quantity destroyed by last year's fire) had it not been for the small additional duty imposed in January, 1856. The withdrawal of the drawback, which was experimentally omitted from last year's annual law, may however account for any deficit in that part of the customary importation that would otherwise have been destined for exportation elsewhere; and I fear that a system of undetected smuggling may also account for the consumption in the town of much spirit that never passes under the notice of the Customs. The many unguarded approaches to the settlement, coupled with the deficiency of our preventive service, amply justify the conviction that smuggling and excise frauds are still to be brought under executive consideration.

The "Ordinary Revenue" of last year would have been amply sufficient for all items of ordinary expenditure, had it not been for the casualties I have mentioned, and which were attempted to be met by the sugar and spirit duties I have spoken of, but which, being of prospective imposition, did not (except to a very small extent) fall within last year's receipts; the result was a temporary loan of the difference of a few hundred dollars from the "Special Revenue," which, as will be seen, still preserves its balance over the "Special Expenditure" charged upon it, and for which it will no doubt prove amply sufficient, when it is drawn to its close, as it will be at the end of the present year.

The increase and decrease of revenue between the past and previous years are nearly equal to each other, the increase in some items in 1856 over the same items of 1855 being 2,062*l.*, and the decrease in others being 2,023*l.* 15*s.* 9*d.*, leaving a general increase of only 38*l.* 4*s.* 3*d.* over the revenues of 1855.

In the returns of "Expenditure" there is exhibited an increase of 4,725*l.* 7*s.* over that of 1855, but this arises from the new buildings in course of erection, and other items of necessary expenditure, consequent on the two destructive fires that lately desolated parts of this town.

There was at the end of December last a satisfactory balance in hand of 5,353*l.* 14*s.* on the two balances of Special and General Revenue for the previous year.

Legislation.

At the last January Session twenty Acts were passed, one only of which was afterwards disallowed, as was to some extent anticipated, by reason of its departure (although in some necessary particulars) from the Imperial Statute which produced it, namely, the Act relating to local lighthouses, being "Chap. XVII. in aid of the Merchant Shipping Act Amendment Act, 1855." And, during the July Special Session, six Acts were passed, which were for the most part superinduced by the calamity of the fire, and by the crime of incendiarism to which it had been traced.

Among the Acts of January the following are those which either effect alterations in the constitutional arrangements, or are not among those of usual annual reproduction, viz.:—

Chapter I., which qualifies resident aliens, who speak and understand the English language, and who carry on business on their own accounts or in partnership with others, or who manage the business of others; for serving on juries, as well as for filling minor public offices or municipal employments, when required to fill the same, provided such offices or employments do not render it necessary to take the oath of allegiance before they can be performed. This Act arose out of the presence in this town of large numbers of aliens, who have for years past been resident here and identified with the inhabitants, but who, in consequence of their strict want of qualification for service on

juries, have always claimed their exemption, and thereby thrown those onerous duties on a comparatively small number of qualified persons, while at the same time they have shrunk from civic or municipal offices under the same claim of exemption. The effect has been to throw a great deal of fresh intelligence into our jury boxes, and to afford many valuable acquisitions to the gratuitous municipal offices which it had always been so difficult to fill. As a necessary safeguard, however, as well as to prompt the naturalization of the most intelligent classes of foreigners, it has been made a published requirement of all persons appointed to offices of emolument, as well as to any judicial or magisterial offices (whether of emolument or not), to take the oath of allegiance before entering on the duties of their offices.

Chapter II. is the very partial result of a recommendation I made, that a third officer should be appointed to assist the Colonial Secretary and the public Treasurer in the performance of those duties which, by virtue of their primary offices, they have to perform in the collection and control of the Customs and Inland Revenues of the settlement, and which duties of Customs have engrossed so much of the time of the Colonial Secretary (to whose office it is wholly foreign) that it has detracted greatly from his more immediate executive service; while the sole and unassisted employment of the Treasurer always threatened some casualty to the books or the chest, in the event of his suffering from any long-continued illness or other accident. The partial cure accomplished by this Act has been only to give clerical assistance to the Colonial Secretary, while the Treasurer's duties still remain subject to all the possible casualties that are inseparable from the single and unassisted position of a public cashier and book-keeper. Fortunately, however, there has not yet occurred any reason to regret the want of greater precaution in this public department.

Chapter III., which authorizes the restraint, under certain circumstances, of lunatics who are dangerous to the community, or who possess no property to defray the charge of private guardianship. There has for some years past been a lunatic asylum of very inferior arrangement and accommodation, in which a few "criminal lunatics" have been placed, but there never was any constitutional right of placing in safe custody lunatics of any other description. Arrangements were made last year for a new lunatic asylum, which has now been completed; and, upon my recommendation to the Legislature of the present year that a board of management should be formed for the control of this institution, as well as of the public hospital which it closely adjoins, a committee was appointed to take the matter into consideration, and to prepare a Bill for the management of these institutions; but other pressing business, and the illness of a principal member, prevented its maturity.

Chapter IV. gives larger and better jurisdiction to the magistrate of the northern district, and improves its police arrangements; authorizes the formation of local boards of wardens; and provides a district prison for those offenders under short sentences and for inferior offences, who were formerly sent to the common gaol of Belize at a large expense and a sacrifice of time, which the offences and their sentences in no way justified. Under this Act temporary arrangements only have been made, but others are in contemplation, and the gaol is in an advanced state of progress.

Chapter V. provides a small stipend of 130*l.* a year for a missionary and schoolmaster for the northern district, with 20*l.* for the rent of a cottage. From the correspondence, proceeding from the Secretary of State, in reference to my previous report of the spiritual wants of this district, I was led to hope that a permanent provision for this much-needed missionary would have ensured the appointment of a zealous and well-qualified person by the instrumentality of one or other of the Missionary Societies whose emissaries would be likely to succeed in this section of the settlement, which in my correspondence I fully described. Of qualified and conditional promises there seem to have been several, and the respective Bishops of Jamaica and of Kingston have added theirs to the list, from which our expectations have been drawn; but, notwithstanding, no missionary has yet appeared, and, with the exception of the small but zealous Roman Catholic efforts at Corosal, there is neither religious ministry or teaching, nor secular education of any sort, within the district occupied by that large but scattered population.

HONDURAS.

Chapter VIII., to amend the Schools' Acts, makes many essential improvements in the educational system of the settlement, which are only now beginning to show their superiority over past arrangements, but which superiority will soon be made more apparent when the new schools, which are fast advancing towards completion, are occupied by the new teachers. The salaries and accommodation of those teachers who are required to be "trained and certificated" are liberally increased, pupil payments are to be conveniently regulated, Congregational schools are relieved from too severe a government control over their systems, while at the same time they are held in sufficient check by the Board and the Inspector of the National Schools, and the appointment of masters of those latter schools is now vested in their ministers and congregations, subject to a test of their sufficiency by the Board. A wholesome but necessary control over pupils out of school is given to the masters by the sanction of the Board. Inspections are established and an "Industrial Department" is to be organized for both the boys and girls free schools. These provisions, and other arrangements which are already in the course of execution, promise great improvements when they can be fully brought into operation.

Chapter IX., an extradition law of offenders escaping to this settlement from the State of Mexico, to be brought into operation when a reciprocal law is passed by Mexico and proclaimed at Belize.

Chapter X. is an attempt to induce persons to accept the office of magistrate in the distant and outlying districts of the settlement, by giving them half their collections of duties instead of fixed salaries; and although I have recommended to the Legislature a small fixed salary to each of these district magistrates, as a temptation to more intelligent persons to go and reside there, I have not been successful in securing it. The population in these districts is certainly very widely scattered, and the feeling is rather opposed to a system of paid magistracy, until such populations become sufficiently concentrated, in one or more localities, to justify its introduction.

Chapter XII. amends the "Courts' Jurisdiction Act" in certain respects, particularly in the sanction of a verdict by nine jurors when twelve are not unanimous, in all cases of treason or felony, as well as in minor cases, in which alone such verdicts were sanctioned by the former Act.

Chapter XIX., to amend the law of evidence, authorizes the examination upon oath out of Court of witnesses who are too dangerously or permanently ill or infirm to attend a trial, or who are about to leave the jurisdiction, the evidence to be taken in certain prescribed circumstances, and to be used at the trial in case of the witnesses continuing inability to attend. It also authorises affirmations instead of oaths by witnesses, whose conscientious scruples prohibit the oath.

Among the laws passed at the August Special Session were the following Acts of a constitutional character, viz.:—

Chapter I., to authorize during a limited time (now expired) the deportation of certain aliens and other persons under circumstances of suspicion. This Act sprang out of the circumstances connected with the incendiary fires of last July, which caused strong suspicions to attach to several persons who were either aliens or strangers to the place, and some of whom had upon many occasions given just grounds for believing that they were in the confederacy which resulted in such disastrous consequences and threatened so much more destruction to the town. This law was about to be enforced against one person, who was afterwards arrested for a plot of another description, but subsequently escaped from prison; and it was also about to be enforced against several others, when they were likewise apprehended upon evidence of rather more conclusive character; but before it could be ripened to conviction, and while it still remained doubtful of sufficiency, they solicited or gladly acquiesced in their own deportation, which was accordingly accomplished; but in the meantime it was gratifying to find, as an effect of this law, that all the principal persons on whom the strongest suspicions rested, speedily found means of withdrawing quietly from the country, or applied (under various pretexts) to be sent away at the public expense, and thus the country was speedily relieved of the presence of some of those whose disaffection and agitations had caused so much uneasiness and produced so much calamity.

Chapter II. was a very necessary law in a country like this, in which the towns are all closely constructed and the houses entirely of wood, and where fires are productive of such wholesale destruction. It declares it to be a felony for any one, unlawfully and maliciously, to set fire to any partially erected building, or to any combustible material whatever; and also declares it to be a felony in any one, unlawfully and maliciously, to communicate the design of setting fire to any such combustible material, either for the purpose of inducing persons to aid in the design or otherwise. And it declares it to be a misdemeanor to declare such intention, openly or by inuendo, without having such aid of accomplices particularly in view.

Chapter III. provided extensive arrangements for widening the streets, and generally improving the recently burnt district of the town of Belize, with compensation to be paid for the public purchases.

In Chapter IV. is one clause (XI.) which declares a new felony, also arising out of the casualties of the fire, at which many persons, under pretext of assisting in the removal of goods, occupied themselves in plunder to an enormous extent. After, in various clauses assigning certain well known places of reception for rescued goods, Clause XI. declares it to be a felony for any one to be detected in removing goods to any other than the assigned places, and to be unable to give a clear and satisfactory account of his authority, and of the manner of his becoming possessed of such goods.

And Chapter V. is the Act to which I have already referred under the head of "Duties and Taxes," imposing a duty on the home-manufactured sugar and spirits of the northern district.

Civil Establishment.

I was too sanguine last year, when I expressed a hope that the difficulties I had pointed out in my previous year's report under this head were likely to be removed by the labours of a legislative recess-committee that had been appointed to investigate and report the specific duties performed by those public officers who held plural offices at one fixed salary, thereby making all their offices primary ones, and rendering an irregularity or incompetency in one fatal to all.

That committee, for some unexplained reason, failed to prosecute the intended investigations during the year; and at the meeting of the house, explained that they had not done so "as they had reason to believe that the "plural duties in question were not more than one gentleman ought easily to "perform, and that the salary was not greater than a gentleman of respectability "would require;" thereby unfortunately begging the whole question, and leaving their important inquiries unperformed, and the plural offices in question precisely as they were.

And this is a great mistake; for, although all these plural duties, if fairly spread throughout the year, and if it were possible to perform them at a time at which one could not interfere with the others, might be easily within the compass of one man's industry, yet the difficulties arise from the impossibility of performing all simultaneously.

One of these difficulties, however, will be removed at the end of this year, by the operation of law, as the "Clerk of the Courts and Keeper of the Records," who under the "Constitution" Act had been very mistakenly made Clerk of the Assembly during the first quadrennial Parliament, will cease to be so in December, when that first Parliament will be at an end, and a new officer must be elected; and unless some more convenient changes can be effected, I fear he may not again be permitted to act, although in his legislative duties he has proved, I believe, a competent and useful officer.

I have always considered it exceedingly objectionable that the "Clerk of the Assembly," through whose hand all the minutes, materials of legislation, and bills, in their progress into "laws" necessarily pass, and by whom they are exclusively kept and controlled, should also be the keeper of the higher records of the country, including those very "laws," and that he should be the only person responsible for those laws, and for their safe custody, punctual transmissal, and accurate registration; for, no sooner is assent given to a law

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that has passed through all its different stages of progress while in the custody of the "Clerk" and private officer of the Assembly, than it is returned to the custody of the same individual, in the different public character of "Keeper of the Records," in which latter capacity a new responsibility arises, of keeping securely that "Record," placing it upon correct registry, and superintending or providing the official and printed copies that are required for transmissal, under seal or otherwise, for general distribution. So that, in these double duties, not only might there arise many errors, confusions, or accidents, but there must always be a difficulty in determining where the private duties and responsibilities of "Clerk" terminate, and the public duties of "Keeper of Records" begin.

A very trifling re-adjustment of duties would have removed some of the principal difficulties, and still left all congruous plural offices, where necessary, in the same single officer, without any diminution of salaries. And I think that if the high and responsible office of "Keeper of the Public Records and of the Great Seal" had been allowed to devolve (as should be the case) on the "Colonial Secretary," and he had been relieved of the detail duties of the "Customs and Revenues," which do not very properly belong to his executive office, and his assistant had been made a "separate officer," as I suggested, but to a sufficient extent under his control and that of the officiating "Collector of the Customs," a far more satisfactory arrangement would have ensued, and at the same time the difficulty of the "Clerk of the Courts" being also allowed to act as "Clerk of the Assembly" (if elected) would in some measure have ceased; for those two officers might not have interfered much with each other, neither would the "Clerk's" custody of private records, such as deeds, wills, &c., have been at all objectionable.

For most other purposes of "executive" arrangement, the "Civil Establishment" may be considered sufficient. But, if ordinary "civic or municipal" duties are to be well performed by those who are to be responsible for their performance, I think, and have often recommended, that paid instead of gratuitous services should be provided; for not only is it difficult sometimes to secure the latter, but, when secured, it is still more difficult to ensure their steady and responsible performance. In many respects, however, as much is perhaps accomplished by gratuitous means as can reasonably be expected of gentlemen who are fully engaged in their own pursuits; but paid services are always to be preferred, as they can then be controlled and enforced, at the peril of removal from the office.

Ecclesiastical Establishment.

The observations I made in my report of last year are, in all important respects, equally applicable to the present year's report, and I have seen no reason to vary the view I then took of the peculiar requirements of the church in this settlement; but, on the contrary, have had every confirmation given to that opinion.

My view then was that, in the peculiar condition of this town, as well as of the settlement generally, very much more is required of the clergymen of the Church of England than the mere performance of services in the church, and that a large amount of zeal and energy are positively necessary for conveying the light of the gospel to those who never enter a church, and who rarely receive any other instruction than that which may be imparted to some of them by the more zealous and laborious emissaries of the Romish and Dissenting Churches; and I have ventured to express an opinion that the duties of our clergymen to be of greater efficacy here should be of a far more missionary, zealous, and searching character than it now is, that our gaols and eleemosynary institutions should be better served, and that our poor and spiritually destitute, who never can or will enter a church, should be themselves visited at their own homes by those whose religious profession and duty it is to throw a ray of gospel light into all darkened recesses, and to draw to the church those who do not spontaneously go there.

The incumbent of St. John's is, as I stated last year, an infirm old gentleman who has performed his duties here for upwards of thirty years, and now much requires the assistance of a curate, whom, however, he does not employ,

although I think now, as I suggested last year, that it is very necessary that he should do so, for the numberless active duties of religious instruction and ministration that he cannot perform himself. But I believe he does his best to perform the services of his church with regularity and precision, and to accomplish his visits to the sick when his services are immediately required. But more than this, it cannot be expected that he can accomplish, unaided by an assistant.

The incumbent of St. Mary's, who is likewise Garrison Chaplain, also performs the services of his church with all proper regularity, I believe; and I assume that the usual garrison service on Sundays is performed with equal punctuality. But with the vast field of labour that is open to a zealous minister of the gospel on that side of the town in which St. Mary's is situated, where are to be found the largest and most scattered portion of the population, and at the same time those who require the most careful and sedulous instruction, I should be glad to feel assured that a larger amount of "work" could be accomplished there, among the sick, the neglected, and the poor.

There may not, perhaps, with the permanent population of this town, be more spiritual labour to be performed than two active and zealous men could well undertake; but if activity or zeal, or both, be deficient the "work" can only be partly performed, and with anything but efficiency in its out-door searching services.

With the garrison chaplaincy the "settlement" has of course nothing to do; nor is the "Garrison Chaplain," I believe, accountable to the bishop of this diocese; neither does it concern the inhabitants of this place, whether, besides the formal Sunday service, any separate religious instruction is or is not given to the soldiery or to their children; but I conceive, that if that duty be fully enforced, the incumbent of St. Mary's might be unable sufficiently to perform all or many of those ministerial duties towards the sick and the poor within his own district which the settlement pays for, and the inhabitants expect to be fully performed.

A foundation, however, is now laid for some more convenient alteration in these respects; for, by a Bill which has been passed during the last January Session (on which I have reported in Despatch No. 5, of the 11th of February), the salary of the incumbent of St. Mary's, when he ceases to be Garrison Chaplain, is to be augmented from three to four hundred a year, a sum amply sufficient to support the position of that incumbent, independently of the garrison appointment.

That garrison duty, I think, should be given to a third clergyman, if one could be provided for that duty, who, in case of physical disability or other cause affecting either of the other clergymen, might be open to an engagement as curate, in respect of which he would be responsible to his immediate principal.

Since the perusal of some correspondence with the Lord Bishop of Jamaica, which resulted from my last year's Report under this head, I have taken some additional means of ascertaining, through the ministers of different religious bodies, their estimated amounts of their respective congregations, and of the probable permanent population of the town, its fluctuating increase at Christmas, and the permanent as well as transitory population of the districts; and the following seem to be the average results:—

The Roman Catholics of the town are estimated at	1,000
The Wesleyans of ditto - - -	450 to 500
The Presbyterians, about - - -	240
The Baptists, about - - - -	500
The Church of England, about - - -	2,500
Those who are not known to belong to any particular Church (although most of them are supposed to have been baptized into the Church of England), probably - - -	2,000
Making an aggregate of about	6,740

And that number is very little short of the average permanent population of the town, which has been estimated from various other sources at nearly the

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following results, and which is thus stated by the following clergymen and ministers:—

The Roman Catholics conjecture about	6,000
The Wesleyans say probably about	8,000
The Presbyterians say the average is	6,500
The Baptists regard the number as nearly	8,000
The Church of England estimate it at about	6,500
	5)35,000
	7,000

All, however, agreeing that at Christmas the numbers are augmented by nearly half the number more.

Besides this town population of Belize, the average district population may be thus estimated:—

Northern District, permanent population	5,500
Southern ditto, ditto, about	4,000
Western ditto, ditto, about	3,000
Being an addition of	12,500

While the transient population is at least 2,000, and the transient country population may be estimated at from 3,000 to 5,000 more.

Thus the permanent population of the town being estimated at	7,000
And the permanent population of the country at	12,500
Gives a number of	19,500

permanent residents to be spiritually served, besides a transient town population of from 3,000 to 5,000 persons; and this must necessarily make some difference in the estimate of service to be performed in this settlement, as stated in the correspondence I have alluded to, as having arisen out of my last year's report.

I need only add to this Report, that the "missionary and schoolmaster" for the northern district, for whom I mentioned in my last report a tributary stipend of 150*l.* a year had been secured from the settlement, had not since been furnished, although the "Colonial Church and School Society" proposed to furnish some aid towards the stipend, and the Bishops of Jamaica and of Kingston both promised to use their exertions in procuring one. Such a missionary is much wanted, and will be gratefully welcomed in that district.

Population.

No regular census has ever been taken of the population of this settlement; and, in consequence of the constant changes that take place, and the difficulty, and perhaps impossibility, of finding the proper machinery for taking one, it might be considered an impracticable difficulty to make one that could be at all relied on.

During the last year, however, attempts have been made to obtain approximate estimates of the population of various parts of the settlement, and particularly of the town, as I have shown in the immediately preceding "Ecclesiastical" Report; and the following appears to be, as nearly as possible, the average of various estimates that have been given me by those who are best able to judge of the general population, transient as well as permanent, of the various districts of the settlement.

Estimated permanent population of the town of Belize, about	7,000
Ditto of the northern district	5,500
Ditto of the southern district	4,000
Ditto of the western district	3,000
Estimated permanent population	19,500
Transient town population (not included in that permanently assigned to the several districts of the country), about	2,000
Transient population of the country (not including that permanently assigned to the town), about	4,000

I have every reason to believe that these average estimates are as nearly correct as it is possible to ascertain them, without the more certain but impracticable process of a census.

Education.

I have little to report under this head beyond a continuing hopefulness in the satisfactory working of all the improvements which have lately been commenced, and are now in course of prosecution, but which will not be developed in their full usefulness until the arrival of all the expected teachers, and the commencement of operations in the new central schools.

These schools have not yet been completed in consequence of many interruptions that have been experienced, among which has been the difficulty of securing sufficient workmen, of whom so many have had their services engaged elsewhere since the great demand occasioned by the late fire. And the destruction, by the same fire, of many of the prepared materials for the principal schools also occasioned considerable delay. It is hoped, however, that in the course of a few weeks the buildings will have so far advanced as to be available for use; and by that time the remaining trained teachers may have arrived, one only,—the head master and inspector,—having yet come out under his engagement.

But already has the advantage of trained and efficient discipline begun to manifest itself in the boys' school since the arrival of the head master, who is fast throwing chaos into comparative order and listlessness into animation; and this not only in the boys' school under his immediate instruction, but in the girls' school also, which has for many years past been subject to the greatest mismanagement, but is now under his occasional inspection and general direction.

And when the central schools are brought into use, and open to the inspection of those who from curiosity or interest are induced to make them occasional visits, I feel very confident that the people will show their marked approbation of the improvements, and will give every additional countenance and support to the enlarged scheme of education, which, indeed, has already produced very gratifying expressions of public satisfaction.

Agriculture and Manufactures.

In last year's Report allusion was made to the recent commencement of cane cultivation among the Spanish and Indian immigrants who have settled in the northern district of the settlement, and who, within the last few years, had introduced such cultivation, and the manufacture of an inferior quality of sugar and rum into that district of the settlement. The late reports of the magistrate of that district give favourable accounts of the progress of that cultivation, so far as respects the quantity of land in use and the prospects for the ensuing year, although no improvement is said to have been made in the culture of the cane or in the manufacture of the sugar and rum.

The extent of land now in use for the approaching crop of 1857 is reported to be nearly 800 acres in that new district; and the magistrate, by whom the returns are collected for purposes of duty, considers that the wants of the settlement in the two articles of sugar and rum will soon be more than fully supplied by the northern district alone. The quality, however, is for the most part far too inferior for export; and, unless great improvements are made in the process of manufacture, both sugar and rum must be devoted to home consumption, and the enterprise of the cultivators be limited to that object alone. I have, however, seen one sample of home-made sugar which would do credit to almost any market; and this clearly proves that, if attention were paid to the process of manufacture, the products of this country would be very greatly enhanced.

Although the country is, for the most part, adapted to almost any variety of tropical production, and the rivers and lagoons would furnish an inexhaustible supply of water for the purposes of irrigation, no cultivation has hitherto been attempted, beyond that of some of the most common vegetables or "provisions" of the country, and the cane to a limited extent; but this is no place for agricultural experiments, nor is it likely to become so while the great staples of mahogany and logwood demand the services of all the available labour of the

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country. The labourers have hitherto been habituated to that pursuit alone, and are always sure of employment at their accustomed work, whenever they choose to leave their own small plantations, even at the enormous wages they demand,—wages which could never be afforded for agricultural services of any sort, even if the labourers were at all fit for that new employment, which they are not. The country is also wholly unfenced, and open to the trespasses of cattle and other animals, and the expense of enclosures would be enormous, and certainly this is not a likely country to tempt persons to migrate hither, and form an agricultural population, when there are so many more tempting fields for adventure in other parts of the world and in better climates than this.

Gaols and Charitable Institutions.

The new gaol, which was designed after the destruction of the last by fire, has not yet been quite completed, although it is sufficiently advanced to admit of the use of a number of cells in the principal building whenever they may be required for additional prison accommodation; but as the wings are now nearly completed, and there is sufficient room in the temporary gaol, it will not probably be brought into occupation until the whole building is delivered up in a finished state by the contractors.

It is an excellent prison, and in all respects well ventilated and healthily situated; but in its arrangements accommodation is only afforded for prisoners' cells, for debtors and lighter offenders, for a prison hospital, and for the gaolers' living rooms. I have been exceedingly anxious to carry out the original design, which would have afforded an entire upper floor for the accommodation I desired to introduce of a prison "chapel and instruction room," two separate "workrooms" for male and female prisoners, and a small "reformatory" branch for juvenile offenders, all of which might have been added at a very trifling expense under the roof of the solid pile of mason work that now forms the gaol; but the desire to save the public funds, and to avoid any additional tax, however trifling, even for this important public purpose, seemed to prevail with those who control the finances, and to lead them to what I fear will prove a mistaken economy.

The small "lunatic" asylum, which is a mere wooden building, has been removed from its former situation within the area of the gaol premises, and is now erected within that of the public hospital, the same public officer attending to both. And it is hoped that the new system of discipline that is recommended for that institution may prove a successful one, although in so small and insignificant an institution medical residence is of course out of the question, and no sufficient pay is allotted for the employment of qualified persons to undertake the peculiar treatment that a proper system necessarily demands. For these reasons it can never, I fear, become an institution of any higher character than that of a mere place of personal restraint. In this settlement, and with the small numbers who are now or are likely to become inmates of this asylum, and with the limited means at command, it would be impossible to expect it to be otherwise. There are now only three occupants; one, a very harmless old woman, and two almost equally harmless "criminal lunatics," for which latter, as for those who are dangerous to the community if left at large, it is now alone designed.

I proposed during this last session that it should be invested with a proper and responsible constitution, conjointly with its sister institution of the "hospital," within the same area and under the same charge; but the duty of considering and of organizing such constitution, slight and simple as it apparently would be, has now been thrown over to the next session, and intrusted in the meantime to a "Recess Committee."

The asylum of the aged and infirm poor is now about to be re-erected in the immediate neighbourhood of the gaol; and this will be the third and only other eleemosynary institution for which the settlement has been able to make provision, all other "paupers" being out-door pensioners.

General Remarks.

Under the several preceding heads, I have fully reported on the various subjects which appeared to require any connected explanation; and I have little to add by way of "general remark."

But, in making this final report, I must be allowed to take a short and general glance at the present position of the internal affairs and institutions of the settlement, leaving them, as I am about to do, to be perfected under a new and improving administration.

The new constitution of the Government is, I think, sufficiently well suited to the position of the settlement as well as to any prospective changes which time and circumstances are likely soon to introduce; but, in some minor details to which I have already drawn legislative attention, a few trifling amendments may with advantage be made; and as some of the recently formed townships are now acquiring an important permanent population, as well as peculiar local interests, an extension of franchise in their favour would, I think, be desirable.

The Superintendent has a salutary check over any undue profusion or mistaken liberality in the appropriation of the revenues, by the necessity which is imposed on him of originating all grants and appropriations that proceed from the Assembly; while the just expenditure of appropriations, when once made, is sufficiently controlled by the standing committee of the Council, who examine and certify the accounts, and by the Superintendent in Council, who issues his warrant for all payments that are made from the treasury. To the Colonial Secretary and the Executive Council, in standing committee, has generally been entrusted the careful supervision and check of all accounts, as well as all minor details of executive arrangement; and, in all unusual or questionable cases, reference is made to the Superintendent in Council. Subject to the same reference to the Superintendent in Council the Colonial Secretary and the Executive Council are also entrusted with the effective execution of all arrangements sanctioned by the Legislature relating to public works and improvements and to general financial details.

In legislative measures the Superintendent has also the advantage of being able to send back to the House for amendment any laws that may have been passed and sent up to him for assent, and (accompanied by his own views and explanations) he may always send down to the House any Act of his own suggestion, which is at once taken up and considered by the Legislature as if it had originated with themselves.

The power of nominating three members of the Assembly, in addition to the eighteen elected by the people, greatly facilitates all communications and explanations to the Legislature, by enabling the Superintendent to place in the House the Colonial Secretary, the Public Treasurer, and the Attorney General. The first of those officials explains all executive details, and the wants of public institutions; the second answers all questions of finance, and the third all points of constitutional and judicial arrangement. The latter also prepares all Bills that are recommended by the Government, and watches others in their progress through the House.

And thus all executive and legislative arrangements, with due adherence to the new Constitution Law (carefully amended, as I have recommended it to be), may be made, as they have already been found, sufficient for all ordinary practical purposes; and as the legislative body is now limited to a smaller number of better selected men than composed the former "public meeting," and as they have been encouraged to attach all proper importance and responsibility to their position, I have no doubt that they will continue as they have begun to advance in gradual and certain improvement in their deliberative and working duties.

The judicial arrangements may now be said to be sufficiently complete for all the practical wants of the settlement, and are merely required to be continued in a course of careful and gradual improvement. A code of simple rules and practice, which has lately passed through the Legislature, gives as much certainty as appears to be required to the process and proceedings of the courts. But in the absence of a bar and of practising attornies of any sort (the whole profession of the laws being regarded as *hostes humani generis* in this country) the want of a second legal advocate for the defence of prisoners, and for the general assistance of suitors, is often seriously felt; and, although the Attorney General is precluded from the advocacy of civil causes, in the Criminal Courts it is different, and ignorant and undefended prisoners often stand opposed to the whole force and machinery of the law.

Magisterial and constabulary authority and social control are also greatly needed in the more remote districts of the settlement, but the absence of

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sufficient centralization of the country population precludes the possibility of affording at present a sufficient extension of the system to meet the wants of those places.

The gaol and other public buildings and the new educational establishments are steadily advancing to as much completion as the settlement immediately requires; and, with the exceptions and qualifications already stated in previous parts of this Report, the different civil establishments and civic arrangements are as ample as the present position and circumstances of the country appear to justify.

Under recent difficulties, occasioned by the calamitous fires of the last and previous years, the public resources of the settlement have been rather severely taxed, although they have been in some measure relieved by the aid of a small and uncertain income called the "Crown Fund," which has been disposed of for certain public purposes, under permission of the Government, and the appropriations of which have been from time to time reported, through the Minutes of the Council and otherwise. This fund arises from occasional licences to cut mahogany trees in some of those districts which are uncovered by "locations" or "grants" from the Crown; and it fortunately happened that, after the disasters of the fire, an opportunity was afforded of transferring to the public, as a site and for the purposes of a new gaol, some lands and buildings in a favourable situation in the town, originally purchased with that fund as an asylum, which afterwards failed in its object; and a small sum which had accumulated was devoted to the enlargement of the gaol premises, and also (among other public objects) in completing the new central schools, for which the income of the present year has been additionally pledged.

But various causes have always made it a difficult struggle to bring the sources of this little revenue into any profitable use; and the income might become equally improved, if, by any equivalent arrangement, it should become identified with the public funds for any given objects of public utility.

In the event of any proposed changes which would render necessary an augmentation of the permanent "Civil List," or any other motive should prompt the Government to relinquish this "Crown Fund" to the settlement, upon terms of mutual advantage, it might be placed under the Executive Board for certain specified uses, and worked into improvement by means of the usual officers of the settlement; and the difficulties that have always been felt in making it available, by reason of the extensive limits and uncertain boundaries of the "locations" and "grants" which generally surround or adjoin these Crown Lands, may be sooner removed by arrangements for the better definition of those boundaries of private property; for, so long as the latter are left in so much uncertainty, there must always be that fear of trespasses, either by tenants of Crown Lands or by occupants of private property, which will prevent persons from proposing any other than the most insignificant rents for lands which ought to produce far greater returns.

In all general respects, I am glad to report that the aspect of the affairs of the settlement, in respect of its primary staples, is as favourable as can reasonably be expected; but I regret that I cannot add an equally good report of its general commercial prosperity. The latter has, within recent years, suffered much from the altered trade with the neighbouring republics; and I fear that there is no immediate chance of its recovering its former importance in that respect, or that it will ever acquire a conspicuous position as a great central entrepôt for mercantile commodities, either for the export trade, or the attraction of customers to the settlement.

I must acknowledge, however, that my impression of the general affairs and position of the settlement is altogether a very favourable one; and it is gratifying to know that its finances are at this moment in a very healthy condition, with a balance in the treasury, and no important debts or difficulties in prospect.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WILLIAM STEVENSON.

His Excellency
Lieut. Governor Major General Bell,
&c. &c. &c.

BAHAMAS.

No. 8.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor BAYLEY to the Right Honourable H. LABOUCHERE, M.P.

(No. 30.) Government House, Nassau, N.P., Bahamas, July 1, 1857.

SIR, (Received August 18, 1857.)

IN forwarding the annual Blue Book of the Bahamas for the year 1856, I must repeat the apology which I have already made for the delay in its preparation, and at the same time I must plead my short residence in the colony as an excuse for the paucity and brevity of the comments which accompany these papers. I feel that until I have a more intimate knowledge of the resources, capabilities, and antecedent history of the colony, it will be wiser on my part to incur the charge of incompleteness, than that of incorrectness, in the observations which I do myself the honour of transmitting.

2. I will confine my remarks to three subjects: The comparative revenue and shipping returns of the years 1855 and 1856, and the present state of schools and education.

Revenue.

3. You will observe, sir, that a comparison of the revenue of 1855 with that of 1856 shows a falling-off in the latter of these years of not much less than 4,000*l.*, the revenue of 1855 having reached the sum of 29,069*l.*, while that of 1856 did not exceed 25,121*l.* The causes of this decrease may (as I am told) be found in the great importation of goods in the year 1855. A large proportion of these remaining on hand during 1856, the imports, and consequently the ad valorem duties of the latter year, suffered a signal diminution. Add to this, the defalcation of the late Acting Receiver General, Mr. Smith, and the deficiency under consideration will be explained.

4. But although the revenue of 1856 not only fell so far below that of 1855, but was also unequal to the expenditure of the same period, I am happy to say that the beginning of 1857 did not dawn upon a deficient treasury. A surplus from the receipts of 1855, amounting to 3,840*l.*, and the payments of duties for which bonds had been given during the course of that year, combined to assist the current taxation of 1856 so effectually that the beginning of 1857 found us with upwards of 1,300*l.* to our credit.

Shipping.

5. I have already said that the import duties of 1856 fell below those of 1855. It will therefore be understood that the tonnage and numbers of the ships which entered in 1856 exhibits a decrease on those of 1855.

ENTERED.

Years.	Number.	Tons.
1855	332	26,774
1856	297	23,321

6. But although the shipping that entered in 1856 exhibits a decrease, as compared with the previous year, another kind of shipping advanced considerably in the year 1856. I allude to the wrecking vessels, for 175 of which licences were issued in 1855, and in the following year no less than 223. I have already in various despatches entered so fully into this subject that it would be superfluous for me to dilate upon it now. I will only repeat what I have elsewhere stated; viz., that the principal cause of this augmentation in the

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number of wreckers, (after the peculiar attractions of a vocation which is in turns desultory, indolent, and exciting,) is the great development of the trade between the United States on one part, and Cuba, Jamaica, and St Domingo on the other. To this must be added the organization of collusive wrecks, which reflects so much discredit on the treacherous ingenuity of American shipmasters and the passive indifference of American under-writers. Nor can I recognize any remedy that of itself will suffice to correct an evil which is at once damaging to the reputation of the colony and demoralizing to its inhabitants. To effect so desirable an object, many concurrent appliances must be resorted to; the erection of new lighthouses on the Gulf of Florida and the Bahama Bank (such as I believe are designed by Her Majesty's Government); the encouragement of native industry, such as the cultivation of fruit, the manufacture of salt, the pasturage and breeding of cattle in the out islands, with such attention to the preparation of textile materials as may be elicited by metropolitan speculation and encouragement. But each and all of these concurrent remedies will fail to prevent the perversion of a calling, which is originally both necessary and humane, into a sordid and perfidious traffic, without the indispensable assistance of sound education and systematic training.

Schools and Education.

7. Considering the population and the resources of these islands, the educational returns set an example of sagacious liberality which might be well imitated in larger and richer dependencies. With not more than 28,000 inhabitants, and with a revenue of not more than 29,000*l.*, the Bahamas Legislature vote 1,400*l.* a year for the education of 2,000 children, in addition to 1,100 others for whom education is supplied by the Church of England. Were the effect more proportionate to the liberality displayed and the costs incurred, it would indeed be a matter for warm congratulation; but to a person recently arrived from Europe there seems some defect in a system of instruction which either does not strongly inculcate on the minds of the pupils the duty of industry, or at any rate does not adapt them to its habitual exercise. I have been surprised to notice the utter want of all preliminary instruction which could dispose the male and female pupils of our schools to the contemplation, or could mould their habits to a life of steady labour, such as falls to the lot of a similar class in England. The paucity and the inefficiency of domestic servants are very remarkable. The paucity of skilled artizans is equally remarkable. Neither does there appear on the part of the youth of either sex a desire to supply the want that is felt, or to learn the arts that have been neglected. Thus a vocation like that of "wrecking," which combines the excitements of danger and of gain with the allurements of desultory idleness and fitful pleasure, presents itself to the minds of the young in colours far more attractive than any form of steady and continuous work; and we may expect to see the same effects last so long as the same causes continue in operation. It will not be until the prizes and attractions of wrecking shall have been diminished by the operation of external changes and domestic checks, and our schools have succeeded in giving industrial tastes as well as industrial skill to the pupils, that the colonial youths will be weaned from their present abnormal calling to the prosecution of those labours and the cultivation of those arts on which alone the prosperity of their country can be securely and permanently established.

8. In making these remarks I do not intend to censure or to depreciate the exertions of the teachers, still less do I presume to condemn the motives or the efforts of the clergy of different denominations, by whose help they have been guided. I bear willing and cordial testimony to the energy, self-denial, and devotion, both of the clergy and the teachers, in the great work of education. They have had a hard battle to fight, and they have fought it well. Climate —want of co-operation—want of sympathy—the habits of the people—past associations—all these things they have had to contend with, and have contended bravely, and it is perhaps, all things considered, unreasonable to expect fruits equal or in any way comparable to those which might reasonably be expected under analogous circumstances in Europe. We who did not witness the real evils of slavery—we who did not know the negro when he was a slave—we who have no vivid recollection of the fearful and wondrous misapprehensions and

illusions with which the sudden act of emancipation dazzled his untutored mind—we who did not see him loathing the compulsory labour of bondage, and hailing freedom as the sure exemption from all future toil—and who are now astounded to see him at this very day regarding the most primitive and indispensable of all toil, when performed for another, almost as a degradation—we make perhaps far too little allowance for the exigencies of social transition, and form a very imperfect notion of the difficulties which would have beset any teacher's path who had twenty years ago tried to indoctrinate his ex-apprentice pupils with a love of manual work; and it is perhaps less fair than ever to complain of the want of industrial teaching among coloured children in the colonies at a moment when the Imperial Legislature is considering the best mode of imparting it to English children at home. Hence we may on reflection be not only led to excuse but to applaud those, who, fearing the deep-rooted prejudices and the hostile traditions of those whom they undertook to teach, forbore to press upon them truisms which would repel their sympathies, and were contented to impart that humble scholarship, which of itself is only a small though essential element of learning, while they deferred to a more distant and convenient season the practical enforcements of those duties the theory of which they were daily communicating to students, whose ear and whose memory were ever more ready to catch words than their reason and reflection were able to weigh them.

9. At the same time, discarding the language of complaint, I would express a hope that ere long the clergy and teachers in our tropical colonies, satisfied that sufficient sacrifice has been made to the power of old prejudices and associations, will recognize the expediency of blending with that imperfect book learning to which the domestic habits of the ex-servile population still in many cases restrict the studies of their children, some admission of the general obligation and some knowledge of the special branches of skilled or unskilled labour. Here, as in almost every part of the West Indies, the great elements of wealth abound. We enjoy a benignant climate, and a grateful though rugged soil. In our out-islands of Abaco, Exuma, and San Salvador, these conditions offer ample encouragement for the cultivation of many kinds of colonial produce. Each of these islands could maintain a population four or five times as numerous as that which now inhabits them, if the people could only be induced to devote their energies to the continuous and systematic prosecution of agricultural, horticultural, or pastoral industry. But their wayward habits, their antipathy to the habitual exercise of hireling labour, and their extortionate price of such occasional labour as they consent for wages to bestow on the land of others, will, I fear, frighten away all European capital and enterprise from this part of the world for ever, unless education and reflection make a timely change in the prejudices and dispositions of the mass of a people who are physically gifted with great strength, and whose worst moral defects are rarely tinged with premeditated brutality or ferocity.

I have, &c.

(Signed) C. J. BAYLEY,
Governor.

P.S.—Since this despatch was written, I much regret to hear from the Colonial Secretary that the Duplicate Blue Book is not ready, in consequence of the delay in furnishing the customs returns.

C. J. B.

TURKS ISLANDS.

TURKS ISLANDS.

No. 9.

No. 9.

COPY of DESPATCH from Governor DARLING to the Right Honourable H. LABOUCHERE, M.P.

(No. 3.)

King's House, Jamaica, August 10, 1857.

SIR, (Received August 31, 1857.)

No. 35—18 July 1857.

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith a Despatch from the President of the Turks Island to the Lieutenant Governor of Jamaica, transmitting the Blue Books of that colony for the year 1856.

2. The affairs of this Presidency were so entirely new to me previously to my arrival in Jamaica, and I have as yet had so little opportunity of acquainting myself with them, that I confine myself to transmitting Mr. Inglis's Despatch without any observations of my own.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. H. Labouchere, M.P., &c. &c. &c. (Signed) C. H. DARLING.

Encl. in No. 9.

Enclosure in No. 9.

(No. 35.)

Government House, Grand Turk,

SIR, July 18, 1857.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the Blue Book of this colony for 1856. On the cause of the delay in its transmission, I shall address your Excellency in a separate Despatch, if possible, by the present mail.

Revenue and Expenditure. Imports and Exports.

2. The revenue for 1856 amounted to 5,806*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.*, falling short of our anticipations by 418*l.* 15*s.* 2*d.*, which is to be accounted for by the fact of two consecutive bad salt seasons.

3. The expenditure for 1856 amounted to 6,124*l.* 15*s.* 6*d.*, showing an excess over income of 318*l.* 8*s.*, which was met from an unappropriated balance. The expenditure of 1856 has been less than 1855 by 176*l.* 9*s.* 7*d.*

4. The total value of imports in 1856 amounted to 33,523*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.* The total value of exports amounted to 27,064*l.* 3*s.* 1*d.* The duties on imports collected under the tariff of 1849, continued, with slight modification, by the revised tariff of 1855, appear now, after seven years' experience, to have been reduced too largely and too suddenly, taking into consideration the increasing requirements of a new colony, together with the comparatively large debt entailed upon it at the separation from the Bahamas. Had the old Bahama tariff been retained up to the present time, slightly modified to meet the altered conditions of the colony, a large reduction on imports might now have been effected, without detriment to its interests. As financial matters stand at present, it would be desirable to retrace our steps, by raising considerably the present tariff as regards imports, which might even now be done on some articles, with material advantage to the revenue, and without injury to any one, except possibly for a time to the few importers, who have already been great gainers, probably the only persons who have been so by the reduction of the tariff. The reduction on flour and provisions generally has not had the effect of a corresponding reduction in their retail prices, allowing for the increased price at the place of production, nor will such be the case while importations remain monopolised by two or three individuals. The total abolition, or at all events the reduction, of duties to a very low scale, on some of the principal necessaries of life, wheat flour, for example, which might have been effected now on that important article of consumption but for the large reduction generally in the tariff of 1849, would probably be the only means of lowering materially its retail price in this colony, by increasing its importation, which in that event would ensue from its being landed here from transient vessels either

for consumption on the spot or for exportation to St. Domingo and other neighbouring colonies, thus keeping up a good supply in the market from the increased quantity which from its perishable nature would probably be thrown into it, in place of, as is the custom at present, keeping a supply barely sufficient for the consumption of the inhabitants, and selling the same at an exorbitant price. Notwithstanding the price demanded for it (2*l.* 14*s.* per barrel for an inferior and unwholesome quality), the average annual consumption of wheat flour amounts to 2,500 barrels annually.

5. Although the deficiency in the salt crop for the last two years has had the effect directly and indirectly of reducing the revenue from imports and exports, it is not likely under the most favourable circumstances to increase to such a degree at present as to enable us to do more than meet the exigencies of our establishment, experience showing the necessity of reserving any surplus remaining after a favorable year to provide for the short comings of future years. Thus the public works of the colony are, under its existing conditions, likely to be retarded, as well as the liquidation of the balance of the public debt by the redemption of the Treasury bonds which were issued for that purpose.

6. The abolition of the tonnage duties in 1849, and the reduction of the export duty on salt in 1852, have, as trammels to trade, been doubtless favourable to our commerce, increasing the number of our customers.

7. The one farthing per bushel, however, still kept up on the export of salt, is found by none to be a grievance, and is of considerable service, both in point of revenue and enabling a correct account to be kept of the quantity of salt made and exported. In 1854, an average season, the farthing export duty covered the expenses of our entire revenual establishment.

8. The revenue from the Crown funds, which is kept separate from that of the Colonial Treasury, is derived principally from the rents of the salt ponds, and amounts to about 3,500*l.* per annum. Although fluctuating little, it has a tendency to increase gradually, while on the falling in of the present salt pond leases in 1866–8 the increase ought to be considerable.

9. The low ebb to which the tariff on imports has been reduced has caused a consequent call for assistance from the Crown funds towards the support of the local Government, these funds having been destined for other purposes.

10. On this subject I transmit, as Sub-enclosure No. 1. in this report, a tabular statement showing the amounts under the different heads expended from the Crown funds in the maintenance of this Government from 1849 to 1856 inclusive, a period of eight years, amounting to 13,447*l.* 8*s.* 7*d.*, or about one third of the whole of these funds collected during that period. It is true that this includes the sum of 2,316*l.* 3*s.* 9*d.* in aid of the erection of a lighthouse, which may be considered a legitimate application of that amount, as I believe it was intended that these funds should be used in aid of public works generally, inclusive of public buildings of every description, maintaining the canals, reservoirs, and public roads in proper repair, as well as in preparatory works, such as canals, roads, &c., necessary for the opening up of new salinas. The erection of public buildings of various kinds which are indispensably requisite,—these preparatory works also above mentioned, so necessary to the development of the resources of the colony,—and other public works even more necessary, have been thus retarded to a great extent by the necessity of affording assistance to the revenue.

Sub-Encl. 1 in No. 9.

11. The entire salt crop of 1856 may be set down at 800,000 bushels and upwards; a considerable portion of it, however, not having been shipped until the present year, owing to the unusual lateness of the period of the year into which the raking of 1856 extended, I cannot at present make a more accurate statement, which, however, will be found to be substantially correct.

12. On these heads I transmit, as Sub-enclosure No. 2., another tabular statement, embracing a period of eight years, commencing from the separation in 1849 up to the close of 1856, both inclusive, showing the value of imports and exports, amount of import and export duties collected, tonnage inwards and outwards, bushels of salt shipped, &c. during that period; and I would especially call the attention of your Excellency to the large amount obtained for exports, of which, during that short space of time, the sum of 221,647*l.* 2*s.* has been

Sub-Encl. 2 in No. 9.

TURKS ISLANDS.

received on the spot, and, with but little trouble or outlay on their parts, by a mere handful of salt pond proprietors.

Labour and Wages.

13. The great drawback to the rapid increase of this colony is the deficiency of labour. This is felt, however, only during the busy period of the year; the consequence being that the labourers, being possibly somewhat improvident, live in a comparative state of feast or famine. Labour might, in my opinion, be obtained from those parts of the Caicos where the people subsist principally by the produce of the soil, to which I adverted in my speech at the opening of the legislature in 1855, but without effect. Notwithstanding what might appear a necessary community of interest, there is a want of unanimity for the common weal among the salt pond proprietors, and without some unanimous movement to effect it these predial labourers are not to be induced to come here, even during the salt season. The sudden want of labour which has taken the salt pond proprietors by surprise lately, both here and at Salt Cay, where raking and shipping salt have been going on at the same time, will not I fear be a means of producing any unanimous attempt on their part to increase the labour market. Thus, not only are wages extravagantly high, but large quantities of salt are likely to remain unraked.

14. At Cockburn Harbour, East Caicos, (or East Harbour as it is commonly called,) Mr. St. George Tucker, a gentleman long and extensively engaged in salt operations there, has made great efforts to foster a resident population, by holding out sufficient inducements to this class of predial labourers at the Caicos, not only to visit the place periodically when labour is most required, but to become permanent settlers, and has in both objects been so far successful that I hear no complaints of paucity of labour at East Harbour. The settlement there is improving rapidly under Mr. Tucker's enlightened superintendence, having with a total resident population of 279 persons, composed of 127 adult males, 62 females, and 89 children, produced last season about one third of the whole salt crop of the colony.

15. This colony is greatly indebted to Mr. Tucker for his exertions at East Caicos, where, by long continued and steady perseverance against a host of difficulties, he has succeeded in establishing so important an addition to the salt pond cultivation of these islands. He complains, and probably with some justice, that little or nothing has been done by the local Government for East Harbour; and I think it would be well that an annual amount be contributed from the Crown funds, for a term of years, towards the public works of that small but thriving settlement, which seems likely to become a source of material assistance to the revenue of the colony.

16. Mr. Tucker was appointed in 1852 assistant police magistrate at East Caicos, acting also to a certain extent as an assistant stipendiary justice, and in that capacity visiting the different and widely spread districts of the Caicos. His salary (100*l.* per annum), which is all he receives for a considerable amount of magisterial duty, could only procure a man of Mr. Tucker's standing and abilities from the fact of his being engaged near the scene of his official duties in salt operations, which, however, it may be well to state have not turned out to his personal advantage, having from the want of adequate capital been obliged to transfer his interest in the East Caicos Pond to Mr. N. T. Butterfield of Bermuda, whose active and intelligent manager he has been for some years past, carrying on his salt works in a manner much in advance of that of the salt rakers here generally, by the judicious application of mechanical contrivances, whereby a saving in manual labour is effected, as well as by a liberal policy very distinct from the conservative ideas of the other large salt pond proprietors throughout the colony.

17. The original drawback to the rapid development of East Harbour has been a want of sufficient capital, salt cultivation on a large scale, although highly profitable, forming no exception to other large commercial speculations, which must fail unless sustained by the necessary capital.

18. This is not likely to be the case with the grant lately made to Mr. James Winter of a portion of the pond at West Caicos, where I am assured an outlay of 10,000*l.* is contemplated before any return is expected. Should these works be thus carried out, it must be the means of effecting a material change in the fortunes of these islands, leading to increase of population and wealth.

Education at the Government Schools.

19. On this subject I submit, as Sub-enclosure No. 3. in this report, a return from the inspector of Government schools, embracing the years 1854, 5, 6, showing the average number of scholars in daily attendance, and the numbers on the registers of the seven public schools of the colony, together with the amount of fees collected during these three years ending 31st December 1856, the fees amounting to a "check" (or 1½*d.* per week for each scholar), being the lowest coin in circulation in this colony. This enclosure also contains a table showing the per-centage of scholars in daily attendance at each school on the numbers registered during the same period.

20. By these returns it will be seen that, although the number of scholars had slightly decreased since the previous year, the rate per cent. in attendance had increased, with the exception of the school at Lorimer's Caicos, which has, however, since the close of 1856, considerably increased, both in numbers and attendance, there being at present 120 scholars registered on the books of that school, with 56 per cent. in daily attendance. The falling off in this school had been owing to a change of masters; but the original master, Mr. Simmons, having been again appointed at the commencement of the present year, the school has been brought into a better condition, and now exceeds what it was formerly, not only in the numbers registered, but, what is of more importance, in the per-centage in daily attendance on the numbers registered.

21. Sub-enclosure No. 4., which contains a statement of the receipts and expenditure in the public educational department of these islands for the year ending 31st December 1856, shows an amount of 663*l.* 5*s.* 10½*d.* defrayed on the maintenance of our system of public education here during the year 1856, and the different items on which that sum has been expended. Sub-Encl. 4 in No. 9.

22. On the subject of public education here generally, I beg to quote a paragraph from the reply of the Legislative Council to my speech at the opening of the legislative session on the 21st May last, to the following effect: "The "returns of the inspector of Government schools, and other information on that "subject to which your honour has directed our attention, afford a gratifying "proof that the liberal provision which has been made by the legislature for the "promotion of popular instruction is being productive of material benefit to "the youth of this colony, and that the educational supervision exercised over "that important branch of our public institutions has been faithfully performed, "and as such is properly appreciated."

I have, &c.
W. R. INGLIS, President.

Sub-Enclosure 1 in No. 9.

STATEMENT of the amounts contributed from the Crown Funds towards the maintenance of the Government of the Turks and Caicos Islands, commencing from the separation from the Bahamas in January 1849 to the close of 1856, inclusive, a period of eight years.

	£	s.	d.
Expenses connected with a Government house, including rental, repairs, furniture, and the purchase of a lot, &c.	1768	6	7
Towards military expenses, inclusive of rent of barracks, repairs to ditto, and militia expenses	1056	18	6
In aid of the erection of a lighthouse on Grand Turk and maintenance of same	3136	18	5
Expenses of poor's house and hospital, inclusive of the purchase of a lot and incidental parochial expenses	2372	15	2
In aid of the special justice's department	2620	18	2
In aid of the Government schools	797	7	11
Remuneration to clerks in the president's office during the years 1849, 1850, 51, 52, 53, and 54	442	13	0
In aid of repairs of public buildings, including jails, parish church at Grand Turk, and chapel of ease at Salt Cay	439	12	5
In aid of the hire of a mail boat in 1853, and for the conveyance of Government despatches	297	3	5
In aid of certain sanitary measures	513	15	0
	13,446	8	7

Sub-Enclosure 2 in No. 9.

TABULAR STATEMENT showing the Value of the Imports and Exports, Tonnage "Inwards" and "Outwards," Quantity of Salt exported, and the Amount, Revenue, and Expenditure of the Turks and Caicos Islands since the separation from the Bahamas in January 1849 to the close of 1856 inclusive,—a period of eight years.

Year.	Value of Imports.	Value of Exports.			Tonnage.		Bushels of Salt Exported.	Receipts of Revenue.				Expenditure.		
		Imports re-exported.	Salt.	Total.	Inwards.	Outwards.		Import Duties.	Export Duties.	Other Sources.	Total.	Salaries, &c.	Account, Public Debt.	Total.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.				£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1849	24,854 13 0	5,148 14 7	34,245 2 11	39,393 17 6	41,712	41,712	1,407,722	4,752 2 0	1,780 15 10	1,908 5 4	8,441 3 2	4,791 19 2	2,410 11 0	7,202 10 2
1850	27,989 9 7	4,174 2 11	26,757 18 7	30,932 1 6	41,269	41,279	1,169,402	2,946 11 11	2,436 5 1	616 11 3	5,999 8 3	4,538 11 2½	2,281 7 11	6,819 19 1½
1851	25,124 11 6	2,353 6 7	17,245 10 0	19,598 16 7	31,066	30,846	786,422	3,506 5 9	1,638 7 7	781 4 10½	5,925 18 2½	5,317 4 3	778 4 5½	6,095 8 8½
1852	29,467 14 2	2,790 17 3	22,035 4 1	24,826 1 4	40,106	38,930	1,061,776	3,806 17 7	2,212 0 8	693 15 7½	6,712 13 10½	5,258 6 4¼	898 3 1	6,156 9 5¼
1853	32,479 15 10	6,426 12 7	24,132 19 0	30,559 11 7	33,552	31,594	827,808	3,847 5 9	862 6 0	1,188 2 0½	5,897 13 9½	5,520 11 2½	954 12 6	6,475 3 8½
1854	34,263 7 8	3,442 3 7	51,375 16 3	54,817 19 10	39,254	36,676	1,021,900	4,397 7 5	1,064 9 7	1,341 2 4	6,802 19 4	5,404 16 10¼	91 18 4	5,496 15 2¼
1855	39,698 15 8	5,317 16 11	22,964 10 8	28,282 7 7	20,814	19,834	391,584	4,161 17 5	407 18 0	1,305 1 4	5,874 16 9	6,209 6 9¾	91 18 4	6,301 5 1¾
1856	33,523 7 6	4,174 2 7	22,890 0 6	27,064 3 1	28,006	26,603	674,940	3,892 5 1	703 1 3	1,211 1 2	5,806 7 6	6,032 17 2	91 18 4	6,124 15 6
Totals £	247,400 14 11	33,827 17 0	221,647 2 0	255,474 19 0	275,779	267,474	7,341,554	31,310 12 11	11,105 4 0	9,045 3 11½	51,461 0 10½	43,073 13 0¼	7,598 13 11½	50,672 6 11¾
Add Amounts raised on Debentures during the years 1850, 1852, and 1853, remitted to Nassau on account of Public Debt £											1,838 6 8	—	1,838 6 8	1,838 6 8
Totals £											53,299 7 6½	43,073 13 0¼	9,437 0 7½	52,510 13 7¾

Sub-Enclosure 3 in No. 9.

A RETURN of the Average Number of Scholars in daily Attendance at and on the Register of each of the Public Schools, together with the Amount of Fees collected in each School during the Three Years ended 31st December 1856.

PLACE.	SCHOOL.	Number in attendance at each School.			Number on each School Register.			Amount, Fees received.					
		1854.	1855.	1856.	1854.	1855.	1856.	1854.			1855.		
								£ s. d.			£ s. d.		
Grand Turk - -	Boys - -	54	68	52	79	94	73	17 19 7½			26 3 9		
	Girls - -	26	26	21	43	41	32	6 13 1½			9 10 10½		
	Infants - -	63	78	59	104	120	92	10 4 1			26 0 1		
Salt Cay - -	Boys* - -	37	24	32	58	55	43	1 11 10½			1 18 9½		
	Girls and Infants -	37	45	40	76	70	77	0 10 9			5 18 5½		
Lorimers, Caicos -	Mixed - -	36	36	37	85	92	100	—			0 8 6		
Kew, Caicos - -	Mixed - -	—	28	30	—	40	32	—			—		
	Totals -	253	305	271	445	512	449	36 19 5½			70 0 5½		

1856		
£	s.	d.
55	15	1
55	15	7½
16	3	9
7	3	7½
0	7	6
—		
55	15	3½

* The averages for this school are taken on the first six months of 1855 and the last nine months of 1856, it being closed during the intervening period.

(Signed) THOS. HOCKENDEN, Inspector, &c.

A TABLE showing the Per-centage of Scholars in daily Attendance at each Place on the Numbers registered for the Three Years ended 31st December 1856.

PLACE.	Daily Attendance.			On Registers.			Rate per Cent. in attendance.			Rate per Cent. of Absentees.		
	1854.	1855.	1856.	1854.	1855.	1856.	1854.	1855.	1856.	1854.	1855.	1856.
Grand Turk, Turks Islands	143	172	132	226	255	197	63	67	67	37	33	33
Salt Cay, Turks Islands -	74	69	72	134	125	120	55	55	60	45	45	40
Lorimers, Caicos -	36	36	37	85	92	100	42	39	37	58	61	63
Kew, Caicos - -	—	28	30	—	40	32	—	70	94	—	30	6
Totals - -	253	305	271	445	512	449	57	60	60	43	40	40

(Signed) THOS. HOCKENDEN,
Inspector, &c., Public Schools.

Sub-Enclosure 4 in No. 9.

STATEMENT of the Receipts and Expenditure in the Educational Department of the Turks and Caicos Islands for the Year ending 31st December 1856.

RECEIPTS.

1856		£	s.	d.
	To Balance in hand from last year -	19	15	1
	„ Amount received from Colonial Treasury - - -	450	0	0
	„ Amount received from Her Majesty's Crown funds - -	150	0	0
	„ Amount of fees collected at the several public schools during the year - -	55	15	3½
		675	11	2½

EXPENDITURE.

1856		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
	By Amount, Salaries disbursed, viz. :—						
	To Inspector and Head Master -	200	0	0			
	„ Assistant Master, Boys School, Grand Turk - - -	60	19	4			
	„ Mistress of Girls School, Grand Turk - - -	60	8	4			
	„ Mistress of Infants Do., Grand Turk - - - -	50	0	0			
	„ Master of the Boys Do., Salt Cay -	53	2	10			
	„ Mistress of the Girls and Infants, Salt Cay - - -	40	0	0			
	„ Ditto Amount, back salary -	8	6	8			
	„ Master, Mixed School, Lorimers -	57	6	0			
	„ Master, Mixed School, at Kew -	10	0	0			
					540	3	2
	„ Amount paid to Monitors at the several Public Schools during the Year - - -	—			21	1	5
	„ Amount, Rental of Schoolrooms at Grand Turk and of the School-house at Lorimers, Caicos -	—			52	7	5
	„ Amount paid for Books, &c. -	27	15	10¼			
	„ „ „ Stationery -	4	18	5½			
	„ „ „ Furniture, &c. -	4	18	10½			
	„ „ Inspector's travelling expenses - -	5	5	2½			
	„ „ Miscellaneous expenses -	6	15	5¾			
					49	13	10½
	„ Balance available for 1857, in the hands of the Hon. Secretary and Treasurer - - -	—			12	5	4
					675	11	2½

Presidency, Turks and Caicos Islands,
Grand Turk, February 1857.

ALEX. C. LOWE,
Hon. Secretary and Treasurer, Board of Education.

TRINIDAD.

TRINIDAD.

No. 10.

No. 10.

Copy of DESPATCH from Governor Keate to the Right Hon. H. Labouchere, M.P.

(No. 67.)

Trinidad, August 1, 1857.

Sir, (Received August 31, 1857.)

I have the honour to forward to you the Blue Book of the colony of Trinidad for 1856.

As I was not in the island during any portion of the year to which it relates, I do not venture to accompany it with any general report, preferring rather to address you separately as occasion requires on the many subjects of interest on which it affords information. I may state, however, briefly, that the comparative statements of revenue and expenditure contained in it show, in the former, an increase of 20,889*l.* 11*s.* 3½*d.* over that of 1855, and in the latter a decrease of 352*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*; and that the revenue and expenditure of the year stand respectively at 93,213*l.* 0*s.* 8½*d.* and 80,304*l.* 12*s.* 2½*d.*, leaving a balance in favour of revenue of 12,908*l.* 8*s.* 6*d.* This is exclusive of all receipts and expenditure under the head of Immigration, which will find their place for the first time in the Blue Book for the present year.

The returns of the imports and exports for the year also exhibit a considerable improvement over those of the former year.

	£
The value of the imports for 1855 being - -	559,067
„ „ 1856 - - -	664,474
„ exports for 1855 - -	380,873
„ „ 1856 - - -	574,767

I have, &c.

(Signed) ROBERT W. KEATE.

The Right Hon. H. Labouchere, M.P.,
&c. &c. &c.

BRITISH GUIANA.

BRITISH GUIANA.

No. 11.

No. 11.

Copy of DESPATCH from Lieutenant Governor Walker to the Right Hon. H. Labouchere, M.P.

(No. 43.)

Government House, Demerara,
November 7, 1857.

Sir, (Received December 3, 1857.)

It is only now that I find myself enabled to forward the Blue Book for 1856, and after the lapse of so considerable an interval from the close of the period to which it relates; considering also that I was absent from the colony during a great portion of that year, I am very doubtful whether any really useful purpose would be answered by an attempt to furnish the usual commentary, especially as it must inevitably lead to the further detention of the volume itself.

From peculiar circumstances the Governor has, I find, been led in his ordinary correspondence during the past twelve months to dwell at greater length and with more minuteness of detail than is customary upon the prospects and position of this community; and as I contemplate the necessity of having to address you at no distant date upon some important facts connected with the supply of labour, it may be the less inconvenient if I reserve the few observations which I might be able to supply as explanatory of the statistics herewith transmitted.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. H. Labouchere, M.P., (Signed) W. WALKER.
&c. &c. &c.

BARBADOS.

No. 12.

No. 12.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor HINCKS to the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE, M.P.

(No. 28.)

Windward Islands, Barbados, June 6, 1857.

SIR, (Received, June 30, 1857.)

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you the Barbados Blue Book for the year 1856, and to submit the Report which it is my duty to make on the principal subjects embraced therein.

Taxes, Duties, &c.

2. The only changes in the fiscal system that I have to report are, the repeal of an extra rate of 15 per cent. on the established duties, which was temporarily imposed in 1855 to assist in meeting the expenses incurred during the cholera visitation ; and the imposition of a tax of 1*s.* per gallon on rum consumed within the colony, with an additional countervailing duty of a similar amount on imported rum.

3. The revenue raised by Customs duties during the last year was 36,593*l.* The tariff is of a very complicated character, which is the more surprising as there is no reason to suppose that it was framed with a view to protect the interests of any particular class of the community.

4. An ad valorem rate of 6 per cent. on goods now subject to duty would be amply sufficient to raise the necessary revenue, but the principle adopted in the Barbados tariff is to charge the low rate of 3 per cent. ad valorem on unenumerated articles, in which are included cottons, linens, silks, hardware, china, earthen and glass ware, in fact, all kinds of manufactures, and to impose specific and much heavier duties on leading articles of food, such as flour, meal, salted meat, butter, bread, cheese, lard, &c.

5. The tax recently imposed on the consumption of rum within the colony is a great improvement in the system, and it would in my opinion be expedient to continue it, as well as the present duties on wines and spirits, and equivalent, specific, or ad valorem rates on malt liquors, tobacco, and any other articles of luxury that it might be considered desirable to subject to increased taxation, and to raise the remainder of the revenue by an uniform ad valorem rate on all articles of consumption, except those which on special grounds should be admitted free.

Revenue and Expenditure.

6. The revenue of the colony may be stated at 80,000*l.*, about 37,000*l.* of which is derived from duties on imports, 12,000*l.* from harbour and carriage dues, 14,000*l.* from a tax upon the consumption of rum, 4,000*l.* from fees and fines, 6,000*l.* from licences, chiefly for retailing liquors, 2,500*l.* from a land tax, 2,500*l.* from the post office, and 2,000*l.* from incidental receipts.

7. Such are the actual sources of the public revenue, but the receipts are occasionally swollen by the proceeds of new loans, and by repayments to the treasury of advances made from it to the parish or other local funds.

8. The ordinary expenditure may be stated at 55,000*l.*, under the following heads:—

Civil Establishment (about one half being for that of the Customs), 7,000*l.*
Judicial Establishment (including salaries of magistrates), 7,000*l.*
Ecclesiastical Establishment, 7,000*l.*
Post Office Establishment, 2,800*l.*
Police, 15,000*l.*
Legislative expenses, 1,000*l.*
Maintenance of gaols, 5,000*l.*
Lunatic asylum, hospital, and lazaretto, 2,500*l.*
Aid to the local road funds, 3,000*l.*
Public printing, 600*l.*
Educational grants, 2,000*l.*
Drawbacks and miscellaneous charges, 2,100*l.*

BARBADOS.

9. It will appear, from the statement in the Blue Book, that in the year 1856 the expenditure reached 70,000*l.* This increase was caused by the repayment during that year of 12,000*l.* on account of the loan raised to defray the extraordinary expenses incurred during the prevalence of cholera in 1854, and also by an outlay on works and buildings.

10. The public debt having been reduced to an amount rather less than 8,000*l.*, which the creditors will not consent to receive prior to the maturity of the bonds, and the colony having a considerable surplus revenue, it is probable that some important public works, which have been retarded for want of means, will be constructed without further delay.

11. The works in question, to which I shall have occasion to refer more specifically hereafter, are, 1st, the improvements connected with the Molehead, comprising the repair of the wharves, the removal of rock in the careenage, and the purchase, equipment, and working of a steam dredge. 2nd, the erection of suitable buildings for the accommodation of the Legislature, the courts, and the public departments. 3d, the extension of the prison at Glendairy, and 4th, the repair of the Government House. These works will, in my opinion, absorb a sum of not less than 80,000*l.*, which, however, can be paid without difficulty out of the surplus revenue.

Local Revenues.

12. The vestries of the several parishes in the island, eleven in number, are empowered to levy local rates for repairs of churches and parsonage houses, support of the poor, and purposes of education. The funds at the disposal of the vestries consist chiefly of the proceeds of a small land tax, pew rents, and rents of parish land.

13. In the ten outer parishes of the island, the aggregate revenue administered by the vestries may be stated at 5,000*l.*, about 2,200*l.* of which is expended for church expenses of various kinds, 1,200*l.* for education, and 1,300*l.* for the relief of the poor, and 300*l.* is paid as commission to the parish treasurers.

14. The taxes of the parish of St. Michael, which comprises within its limits the city of Bridgetown, are nearly double the aggregate amount of those raised in the other parishes.

15. The management of the roads of the island is intrusted by law to commissioners. The road fund is derived from a tax of 9*d.* per acre on land, 1½*d.* in the pound on the rental of houses, and a tax on carriages, horses, and mules. No tolls are levied, but grants are made from the public treasury to each parish, varying in amount with reference to its situation, so as to compensate the inhabitants of those parishes whose roads are much travelled over by non-residents, and which are those nearest to Bridgetown, which is the general shipping port for the colony.

16. The cost of maintaining the roads of the island will probably average 8,000*l.* The grants from the treasury were only 1,450*l.* in each of the years 1855 and 1856, but they will probably be increased this year to at least 3,000*l.*

Public Debt.

17. I have already had occasion to notice this subject. To meet the extraordinary expenses incurred during the visitation of cholera in 1854 a loan of about 20,000*l.* was contracted, of which 8,368*l.* was outstanding at the commencement of the present year. It has since been further reduced to 7,708*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*

Militia.

18. The Militia Act of the island provides for the enrolment and calling out of the force; but it may almost be considered a dead letter, and I have not deemed it expedient to recommend any further legislation on the subject. The maintenance of an efficient police involves a very considerable annual expenditure, and such a force is all that the circumstances of the colony seem to require.

Public Works.

19. I have already, when referring to the expenditure of the colony, had occasion to notice the various public works in progress or in contemplation. The most pressing of these is the repair of the wharves and the deepening of the careenage. The former will, I hope, be prosecuted with vigour after the shipment of the present crop. The navigation of the careenage has been seriously impeded, partly by an accumulation of mud, and partly by a coral rock which has been gradually forming in the channel.

20. A contract has been entered into with submarine engineers residing in the city of New York for the removal of a sufficient portion of the coral rock, and the work has already been several weeks in progress, and will, I hope, soon be completed.

21. A steam dredge of sufficient power has been ordered from Glasgow for the colony, and may be expected in a few weeks, when dredging operations will be vigorously prosecuted.

22. When I arrived in the colony at the beginning of 1856, I found the building appropriated for the residence of the Governor in very bad order, a circumstance which was duly reported by my predecessor. The building is under the charge of a Committee of the House of Assembly, which recommended that no time should be lost in putting it into an efficient state of repair. An appropriation for the purpose was accordingly made, and the work was commenced in September last, and is likely to be completed next November.

23. To carry out the original plan of the prison at Glendairy, it will be necessary to expend a considerable sum of money. The most pressing work is the erection of a prison for female convicts with separate cells.

24. Although I scarcely think it probable that the public buildings to which I have already adverted will be speedily commenced, yet, as plans and estimates have been invited, I ought not to omit to notice them among the projected works. I estimate their cost at something like 40,000*l.*

Legislation.

25. The legislation of 1856 was not important, about twenty acts were passed, but they were rather of a local than a general character, and do not appear to call for any special notice.

Political Franchise.

26. The small number of electors registered under the existing law is a subject of popular complaint. An association has been recently formed with the avowed object of promoting reform, by extending the elective franchise, and has made more than one appeal to the public.

27. The House of Assembly consists of twenty-four members, two from each of the eleven parishes, and two from the city of Bridgetown. The number of registered electors is about 1,350, but several of these are said to be dead, absent, or registered in more than one place, and as the parish of St. Michael and city of Bridgetown contain a much larger proportion of electors than the outer parishes, the constituencies of the latter, embracing ten electoral districts, do not, I should suppose, exceed 700 electors, or an average of seventy each.

28. It is said that the constituencies of St. Michael and Bridgetown are not unfavourable to the proposed extension of the franchise; but, on the other hand, I am inclined to think that the members for the outer parishes, and probably their constituents, are opposed to any change.

29. The qualification for electors in this colony is unusually high. The freehold qualification is 12*l.* 16*s.* 6*d.* sterling; leasehold 64*l.* 2*s.*, the original lease not having been for a less term than five years. The occupancy qualification in the city is a rental of 32*l.* per annum.

30. The great value of property in this island, and the difficulty of obtaining it, are, in my opinion, a sufficient protection to the proprietors. Under any scheme of qualification that would be proposed, even by those entertaining the most extreme views, the number of electors would be small, while there is no cause to apprehend that the landed proprietors would have less than their legitimate influence.

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31. I think that it would be very desirable that industrious men who have succeeded in acquiring freehold property should be intrusted with the elective franchise. It would have a tendency to interest them in maintaining and in improving the institutions of their native country.

32. The total number of landed proprietors in the island is under 5,000. It is this class that is chiefly interested in the extension of the franchise. It is not probable that any change in the leasehold qualification in the rural districts that would be agreed upon, would materially increase the number of electors of that class.

33. On the other hand, by lowering the freehold qualification, there might be a considerable increase to the number of electors, unattended with any kind of risk. In the parish of Christchurch there are 770 landed proprietors and only 145 registered electors. In St. Joseph, 294 proprietors and forty-nine electors. In St. Andrew, 306 proprietors and thirty-eight electors. In St. John, 250 proprietors and twenty-seven electors. In St. Philip, 653 proprietors and ninety-five electors. In St. George, 432 proprietors and thirty-four electors. In St. James, 457 proprietors and sixty-two electors. In St. Lucy, 557 proprietors and 175 electors. In St. Thomas, 310 proprietors and sixty-seven electors. In St. Michael, 430 proprietors and 182 electors. In St. Peter's, 233 proprietors and 117 electors.

34. It is to be observed, that the proportion of electors to proprietors differs widely in the several parishes. This may be accounted for in St. Michael's by the high value of land; but I should not suppose that the small proprietors in that parish or in St. Peter's were superior, as a class, to those in other parishes, and certainly no evil has resulted from their possessing the elective franchise.

35. With regard to the city I am of opinion, that it would be wise to extend the franchise, and more especially as it might be done without causing any political change.

36. In considering the state of the franchise I ought not to omit to notice, that the advocates for reform complain that the qualification for representatives in the Assembly is too high.

37. It is truly alleged, that formerly every one qualified as a voter was likewise eligible for a seat in the Assembly, and that by the Act of 1840, under which persons of colour were first admitted to a participation in the franchise, a high qualification was imposed. It is demanded by the reform party that the law should be placed on its old footing.

38. While individually I am not inclined to advocate a property qualification for representatives, I am nevertheless of opinion that the question should be decided on its merits, and not with reference to the state of the colonial law prior to 1840.

39. I should be very glad indeed if the qualification for representatives were reduced, but I am not of opinion that the present one can fairly be considered in the light of a grievance. On the contrary, it is more liberal than qualifications usually are, as any one enjoying an income from any profession, office, or trade of not less than 200*l.* per annum is eligible to a seat in the Barbados Assembly, though unpossessed of property of any kind.

40. In thus stating to you explicitly the opinions which I have formed, as to the state of the political franchise in this colony, on which it is my duty to report, I must remind you that I have no reason to suppose that they are in accordance with those of the proprietary body generally, or of the majority of either branch of the Legislature.

Population.

41. As no census has been taken since 1851, I have not any new information to communicate under this head. The population of the island is very dense, and there can be little doubt that the cultivation of the estates might be fully carried on with a much smaller number of labourers.

42. Emgiration is advocated by some, but there is little probability that legislative aid would be given for such a purpose, and there is no restriction whatever on voluntary emigration, while there is a pressing demand for labourers in the adjacent colonies, which can be reached without much trouble or expense.

43. The truth is that a feeling of attachment to their native land pervades the population of all classes and races. And this is not surprising considering the many advantages it possesses. An impression, too, seems to prevail that those who have emigrated to the adjoining colonies are dissatisfied with their change.

Ecclesiastical Establishment.

44. There are eleven parishes in the island, the rectors of which are paid from the colonial treasury a salary of 320*l.* per annum, in addition to which they have each a glebe, and in some instances a commuted allowance in lieu of fees, which cannot now be legally exacted.

45. The curates receive 150*l.* per annum from the colonial treasury, and a few enjoy an additional allowance of from 50*l.* to 100*l.* from funds at the disposal of the bishop.

46. There are twenty-two ministers and curates in the island, in addition to eleven rectors; and there are eleven churches and twenty chapels, in which public worship is maintained at the expense of the colony wholly or partially.

47. The Bishop and his clergy generally are eminently distinguished for their piety and zeal, and are increasing in their efforts to extend religious instruction, and to foster the many valuable charities in connexion with the Church of England.

48. There is no regular assistance given by the Legislature to any religious denomination but the Church of England. The Wesleyan Methodists, and United Brethren or Moravians, have established missions in the island, and the ministers of those bodies are most zealous in imparting religious instruction, and in promoting education.

49. There is, indeed, unusually little religious discord in this island. Although the Bishop and the majority of the clergy of the Church of England decline to countenance any movement which is not under the immediate direction of their own church, a respectable minority of the clergy and laity are fully sensible of the value of the services of the Moravian and Wesleyan missionaries, and willingly contribute to the support of the missions, and especially to their schools.

Education.

50. In this colony the education of the children is to a very great extent under the immediate supervision of the clergy. It is much to be deplored that so inadequate a provision has been made for the support of the schools, and that the influential members of the community seem to be so little impressed with the belief that one of their most important duties has been inadequately performed.

51. The grants in aid of education for the year 1856 were, from the public treasury 1,434*l.* 5*s.*, from the parish of St. Michael 1,230*l.*, and from the other ten parishes 1,200*l.*, or in the aggregate less than 4,000*l.* for all the schools in this densely populated island.

52. I should lament still more than I do the insufficiency of the present provision for the maintenance of schools, were it not that I have no confidence in any satisfactory result from a larger expenditure of money until a proper system shall have been established.

53. Obviously the first step to be taken is to provide competent teachers. This involves the maintenance of an efficient training school, in which the pupil teachers should receive aid from the colonial treasury. The subject has been for many months under the consideration of a legislative committee whose labours I earnestly hope will be brought to an early and satisfactory conclusion.

Imports and Exports.

54. This important branch of inquiry has been of late invested with additional interest, owing to the efforts which have been made to divert the trade of the West India colonies into different channels from those into which the common interests of the producers and consumers have hitherto caused it to flow.

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55. Although such efforts have been greatly checked by the prompt and judicious action of Her Majesty's Government, yet I think it not undesirable to prove by well authenticated facts, that the advocates of such a policy were in error, as I am well aware that in some quarters complaints have been made of the interference of the Imperial Government with the course of what has been incorrectly termed local legislation.

56. It is my purpose therefore to give a general view of the trade of this colony, to point out the leading articles of production and consumption, to state the markets in which the former are sold, and the causes which lead to the preference given to those markets, and to indicate the sources from which the various articles of domestic consumption are supplied.

57. I intend likewise to institute such a comparison between the commercial operations of the past and those of the preceding years as the insufficient trade returns for the latter will admit of.

58. The Blue Book returns state the value of the exports from Barbados in 1856 at 970,000*l.*, and the imports at 840,000*l.* This statement however requires explanation. Being rendered by its windward position a convenient depôt, Barbados carries on a considerable traffic in British manufactures and American provisions with the other British West India Islands and British Guiana, and to a less extent with the French, Spanish, Dutch, Swedish, and Danish colonies.

59. This trade may be estimated at about 200,000*l.*, so that the value of the imports consumed in the island in 1856 did not exceed 640,000*l.*, while the exports of domestic products, valued according to the Blue Book returns, may be stated at 770,000*l.* I shall have occasion to point out elsewhere that the exports for 1856 have been considerably undervalued, and that the planters realized from the sugar crop about 130,000*l.* more than the estimate. The exports, therefore, were really worth 900,000*l.* sterling, which is more than 40 per cent. above the stated value of the imports for consumption.

60. Of this 900,000*l.* the sugar exported may be valued at 790,000*l.*, the molasses at 75,000*l.*, and the rum at 15,000*l.* The remaining 20,000*l.* is the value of several articles, such as old metals, hides, aloes, arrowroot, tamarinds, turtle-shell, pickles, and succades, each unworthy of consideration as an article of export.

61. The produce of the island is shipped chiefly to the English and Irish markets. Of 43,666 hhds. of sugar exported in 1856, England received 24,569, Ireland 15,986, being 40,555 for the United Kingdom, the United States 2,855, and British America 256.

62. As the imports from the United States are nearly equal in value to those from the United Kingdom, it has been made a subject of complaint that the former country, instead of receiving in exchange the staple products of the colony, requires payment in money. The argument is, that the money paid for American imports is capital abstracted from the British colonies for the encouragement of the slave trade, as it is employed by the Americans in the purchase of sugars at Cuba and Porto Rico. It may be proper to observe here, that the erroneous views which I deem it my duty to notice, are contained in the Parliamentary Paper entitled "Customs Duties (Canada and the West Indies), ordered by the House of Commons to be printed 29th July 1856."

63. A very brief explanation will be sufficient to establish the fact, that the Americans have been compelled to take payment of their supplies in money, and to purchase their sugars in Cuba and Porto Rico, because it has not been obtainable in Barbados.

64. The sugar producers of this island may be divided into three classes; 1st, the non-resident proprietors whose estates are unencumbered, and who have the sole control of their produce; 2nd, the resident and non-resident proprietors whose estates are mortgaged, and whose produce is shipped through the agents of the mortgagees; and 3rd, the resident proprietors whose estates are free, and whose produce is entirely at their own disposal.

65. The sugar of the first-mentioned class has not hitherto been offered for sale in the island; it has been consigned to the agents of the proprietors in England, and it is at least doubtful whether it can be diverted into other channels. This class of producers most assuredly could not with justice join in the complaint that the Americans have not been purchasers of their sugars.

66. The second class cannot be said to have much choice as to the disposal of their produce. It is regularly delivered to the representatives of the mortgagees, and exported by them to their principals in the United Kingdom, generally in the vessels of the latter.

67. The last, and, I believe, the smallest class, is that of the resident proprietors who have the entire control of their produce; but even among them there is frequently an unwillingness to sell in the Barbados market, especially when there seems any probability of prices rising.

68. So far, then, from the Americans being indisposed to take Barbados produce in exchange for their provisions, the truth is that they purchase as much of the former as they can get, whereas the English seldom buy a cask in the colony. The exports to the United States, on the contrary, have been sold for cash in the home market, not a single proprietor, so far as I can ascertain, being willing to consign his produce to that country for sale.

69. I may observe that, so long as there were protective duties in favour of British West India produce, it was obviously the interest of the producers to sell their sugars in the English market. That branch of the trade with the United States is therefore a new one; it was wholly insignificant prior to 1855. In that year the value of the exports of sugar to the United States was 8,865*l.* In 1856 it had increased to 46,690*l.*; and this year the sugars already bought on American account are worth not less than 40,000*l.* It is manifest, therefore, that there is no unwillingness on the part of the Americans to exchange products with this colony; and after a slight reference to the shipping employed in the trade, it will appear further that they, as well as the producers of sugar, have suffered materially from the inability of the former to purchase sugar in Barbados during the continuance of the protective system.

70. In 1855, 127 vessels of 24,813 tons burthen were entered from the United States; but only 35 of 6,871 tons burthen were cleared for that country. In 1856, 181 vessels of 35,129 tons burthen were entered, all with cargoes, while but 61 of 12,901 tons burthen were cleared, 20 of which, of 5,679 tons burthen, were in ballast.

71. Another important fact with reference to the trade of the island deserves notice. The molasses made on the estates is considered as offal, and is, as a general rule, under the control of the managers or attornies of the estates by whom it is sold, the proceeds being applied to meet the ordinary disbursements of the estates.

72. While, however, the sugar, owing to the causes which I have assigned, has been exported to England, a large portion of the molasses has been purchased on American account. I have stated the value of the molasses shipped in 1856 at 75,000*l.*, of which 40,000*l.* went to the United States and British America, and 35,000*l.* to Great Britain and Ireland.

73. Having, I trust, satisfactorily explained the causes which have influenced the shipment of the products of this colony to the English markets, having shewn that the proprietors of estates have no ground whatever for the complaint made on their behalf, that the Americans refuse to purchase those products, and that they carry the cash received for their supplies to other markets supplied by slave labour, I shall proceed to describe the goods imported into the colony, and the sources of supply.

74. I have already stated that the value of the imports for consumption in the colony in 1856 was about 640,000*l.* Of this rather more than one half consisted of articles of food, including groceries, wines, and liquors, as well as the food of animals. The other portion was composed of various manufactured articles, lumber, including hoops, staves, shooks, &c., guano and other manures, horses, and mules.

75. Of the articles classed as manufactures, the import of which, in 1856, was about 200,000*l.*, the great bulk was received from the United Kingdom, the United States supplying 17,000*l.* worth; the only articles exceeding in value 1,000*l.* being tallow candles, 10,000*l.*, and matches, 2,500*l.*

76. The imports of manufactures from Ireland were under 20,000*l.*; chiefly soap, tallow candles, linens, and cottons, though the principal portion of the latter was supplied by England, as well as the manufactures generally, which chiefly consisted, besides the articles above mentioned, of hardware, china, earthen and glass ware, leather of all kinds, cordage, copper, coals, carriages, machinery, and fancy goods of all kinds.

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77. The guano, the value of which retained for consumption was 50,000*l.*, was imported from England and Calloa. The value of the wood goods of all kinds was, in the aggregate, 45,000*l.*:—viz., lumber, 12,000*l.*; staves, 19,000*l.*; shingles, 9,000*l.*; hoops, 5,000*l.*; and shooks, 1,000*l.* The hardwood was supplied by the West India colonies, the other lumber by the United States and British America in nearly equal proportions, staves and shingles almost entirely by the United States. Shooks are not much used in Barbados, but are supplied by the United States. Hoops are imported principally from the United Kingdom. The horses and mules imported last year, which were of the value of 6,000*l.*, were brought from the United States. The principal articles classed as food were supplied by the United States, the exceptions being rice, dried and pickled fish, cattle (which are chiefly supplied by Porto Rico), groceries, wines, and liquors.

78. In considering this question with reference to the proposed scheme of reciprocal free trade, it may be desirable to point out that Canada would have been wholly unable to supply any of the articles classed as manufactures—wines and liquors, tobacco, cattle, mules, guano, groceries, salt, rice, and fish—the aggregate value of which amounted to 360,000*l.* The other chief articles of import were flour, corn meal, bread, salted meat, butter, cheese, lard, corn and grain, and lumber. It will appear from the trade returns in the Parliamentary Paper to which I have referred that Canada has recently imported from the United States salted meat, cheese, and lard under heavy duties.

79. Canada has no pretensions to compete with the United States in the supply of corn meal. Flour is the article that, in the opinion of many, could be advantageously supplied by that colony, and indeed it is the one which has been principally referred to during the discussions on the subject. It is important, therefore, to mention that northern flour is not in favour in this market. Our supplies of that article are obtained chiefly from Baltimore, owing, I presume, to the southern flour standing the climate better.

80. In the articles of butter and corn and grain, as well as salted meat and lard, Ireland competes advantageously with the United States. The reciprocal free trade measures would, therefore, have had a tendency to force a trade in these articles from the United States through Canada, into which colony they are now admitted duty-free, under the Reciprocity Treaty, to the injury of Ireland.

81. It might be expected that Canada would compete to some extent for the trade in wood. The whole value of the articles classed under this head was about 45,000*l.*, and of this an amount of 5,000*l.* was imported from the United Kingdom. It must be obvious that the cause of there being no trade between this island and Canada is, that wood is the only article which there is reason to suppose could be advantageously supplied by the latter, and that it would not answer to load vessels exclusively with that commodity, especially when they would have to return in ballast. Canadian wood, moreover, being admitted into the United States free of duty, may and probably does reach this colony through that country.

82. Had the expedient been adopted of removing altogether the duties now levied in this colony on articles of food, as was at one time proposed, it must be obvious that no change would have taken place in the course of trade. In such a case our supplies would be drawn, as they are at present, from those who can furnish them at the lowest rate.

83. My conviction is, that the admission of West India sugars to the Canadian market free of duty would not only be highly injurious to the Canadian consumers, who would have to supply from other sources the amount of any deficiency in the sugar duty, but it would be equally so to the Barbados planters. At present the trade of this island is carried on by merchants of the highest standing, who have an immense capital embarked in it, and who have their arrangements made to advance all that is required for the cultivation of the estates, and the manufacture of the crop, during the long period which elapses between the planting of the cane and the realization of the value of the manufactured article.

84. English merchants would not be likely to supply capital for a trade with Canada, and it may be doubted whether there are capitalists in Canada, or in the United States, disposed to take their places. I trust, therefore, that on giving to the subject more consideration than it received in some of the

West India colonies when suddenly presented to them, it will appear that the policy of the empire is in strict accordance with the interests both of the producing and consuming classes in Canada and the West Indies.

85. I should have considered it desirable to institute a comparison between the imports and exports of 1856 and those of former years, but I have no materials for doing so satisfactorily. There was a large importation in 1852, which was a year of great prosperity, but no detail is given in the returns of that from the United Kingdom, and the exports to the West India colonies are classed under one head. In referring therefore to those articles imported in 1852, of which I find details, I must quote the aggregate import without allowing for the exportation. For 1855 and 1856 I shall give the quantities retained for consumption in Barbados.

86. Referring then to leading articles of food, I find the consumption of rice in 1856 to have been 26,000*l.*; in 1855, 11,600*l.*; in 1852, the total importation, 16,400*l.* The value of flour consumed in 1856 was 49,000*l.*; in 1855, 29,000*l.*; and the total import in 1852, 38,000*l.* Corn meal, in 1856, 41,000*l.*; in 1855, 30,000*l.*; in 1852, total import, 31,000*l.* Bread, in 1856, 21,000*l.*; in 1855, 12,000*l.*; in 1852, 10,000*l.* Fish, in 1856, 33,000*l.*; in 1855, 26,600*l.*; in 1852, total import, 43,000*l.* I may observe that the exportation of this article from the bonded warehouse in Barbados is considerable, the import in 1856 having been 64,000*l.*, of which 31,000*l.* was exported, leaving 33,000 for consumption.

87. The salted meat consumed in 1856 was 26,000*l.*; in 1855, 15,000*l.*; in 1852, 12,000*l.* The importation of wood has been less fluctuating. It was 45,000*l.* in 1856, 42,000*l.* in 1855, and 42,000*l.* in 1852. The consumption of guano was 50,000*l.* in 1856, 22,000*l.* in 1855, and 26,000*l.* in 1852.

88. The immense increase in the consumption of the leading articles of food of the masses of the people would indicate a greater degree of prosperity, but I am not aware that there has been any advance in the rate of wages. I can hardly doubt, however, that the labouring population are more fully employed at present than they were formerly. It is also worthy of consideration that the year preceding the one which is the subject of my Report was that which immediately followed the cholera visitation, by which one eighth of the population of the island was carried off.

89. I cannot institute a comparison between the exports of 1856 and those of former years, without observing that it is of great importance that those charged with the compilation of the trade returns should exercise a vigilant supervision over the values assigned to the leading articles of export. It is vain to expect anything like perfect accuracy, but as regards the imports into this colony the temptation to commit fraud, either by undervaluation or by evasion of the entire duty, is so slight that I have no reason to doubt the general correctness of this branch of the returns. But as nine tenths of the exports consist of one article, which is valued at the discretion of the officers of Customs, every exertion should be used by them to obtain reliable information as to the state of the markets.

90. On examining the values assigned to the leading article of export from this colony during the last few years, I find a very slight variation in them; indeed the Blue Book returns would induce the belief that the sugar crop of 1854 was of about the same value as that of 1852, and much greater than that of 1856.

91. I have taken considerable pains to obtain information from the best sources, and the result of my inquiries is, that the sugar crop of 1852, which I have selected as a year of unusual prosperity, was worth about 810,000*l.*, that of 1854, 625,000*l.*, while that of 1856 I have already estimated at 790,000*l.* The crop of 1855 did not realize more than 560,000*l.* But as the exports of molasses and rum were worth fully 40,000*l.* more in 1856 than in 1852, the value of the total exports from the colony must have been greater in 1856 than in any of the preceding years.

Shipping.

92. The returns of this important branch of the trade of the colony shew that during the year 1856 there were entered at Bridgetown 966 vessels of

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114,408 tons, and with crews numbering 7,194, while 967 vessels of 114,669 tons burthen, and crews numbering 7,247, were cleared from the same port.

93. Of the vessels which were entered inwards, 52 of 11,736 tons burthen, and of those which were cleared outwards, 167 of 26,810 tons burthen, were in ballast.

94. Of the 966 vessels which were entered inwards, 109 of 31,511 tons were from the United Kingdom, 181 of 35,129 tons from the United States, 92 of 12,687 tons from British North America, 478 of 20,755 tons from the British West Indies, 81 of 4,701 tons from the foreign colonies, Venezuela and St. Domingo, and 25 of 9,625 tons were from other ports.

95. Of the 967 vessels which were cleared outwards, 121 of 34,408 tons burthen were for the United Kingdom, 61 of 12,901 tons for the United States, 47 of 6,935 tons for British North America, 568 of 39,603 tons for the British West Indies, and 170 of 20,822 tons for foreign colonies, Venezuela and St. Domingo.

96. Of the vessels which were entered inwards, 774 of 78,186 tons burthen were British, and 192 of 36,222 tons were foreign. Of those which were cleared outwards, 782 of 81,764 tons were British, and 185 of 32,905 tons were foreign.

97. It may be further observed with reference to this branch of trade, that of the 109 ships which were entered from the United Kingdom 5 were foreign and 11 in ballast, while of 121 which were cleared outwards one was foreign and none in ballast. The 181 vessels entered from the United States, 23 of which were British, brought cargoes, but only 61 were cleared for that country, and 20 of those were in ballast, viz., 4 British and 16 foreign. Of the 92 vessels entered from British America, 3 only were foreign and all brought cargoes. Of 47 vessels cleared for British America, 16 were in ballast. 478 vessels, 7 of which were foreign and 17 in ballast, were entered from the British West Indies. 568 were cleared for those colonies, 58 of which were foreign and 35 in ballast. 81 vessels were entered from the foreign colonies and 25 from other ports in Europe, the East Indies, or South America, of which 19 were foreign and 22 in ballast. 170 vessels were cleared for the foreign West India colonies and Venezuela, 76 of which were foreign and 96 in ballast.

98. It appears from the foregoing statement that the trade with the United Kingdom is on a most satisfactory footing as regards shipping, being carried on almost exclusively in British bottoms, and the vessels having cargoes on both voyages. The imports from the United States were brought chiefly in foreign and those from British North America in British bottoms, but there were not return cargoes to any considerable extent, and the vessels, both British and Foreign, were either cleared in ballast for their own ports or sent to the foreign West India Islands to seek for freight. Some few were taken up in Barbados for the intercolonial trade.

Agriculture.

99. Although it has not been in the power of the compiler of the Blue Book to furnish from official sources any agricultural statistics, I am gratified in being able to report that much attention is paid by the resident proprietors and managers to the cultivation of the soil.

100. There is a general agricultural society in the island, incorporated by an Act of the Legislature, and which supports an interesting monthly periodical. Besides this, there are branch societies in the several parishes which hold frequent meetings, at which much valuable information is communicated. The best evidence that can be offered as to the improvement in the system of cultivation, is the increase which has taken place of late years in the staple products of the colony.

101. It is a subject of general remark that the Barbados estates are cultivated like gardens. Weeds are hardly to be seen, the plough is in very general use, and the system of wide planting is almost universally adopted.

Gaols and Prisons.

102. Under the head of Public Works I have had occasion to notice the contemplated extension of the buildings at Glendairy Prison, which has been constructed with the view of enforcing a judicious system of prison discipline.

103. The number of prisoners usually in confinement may be stated at about 400. Of these, 72 males are kept in separate cells at Glendairy, and it is the practice to select for that prison convicts of the worst class, and of course with the longest sentences. Prisoners awaiting trial, debtors, seldom exceeding 20 in number, and male convicts for whom room cannot be found at Glendairy, are confined in the common gaol at Bridgetown.

104. Male prisoners summarily convicted by the police magistrates are confined in a rural prison, in the parish of St. Philip, which will hold 40 very conveniently, and in which there are few separate cells for confining those guilty of breaches of prison discipline.

105. There are two prisons for females, one in the northern part of the island, in the parish of St. Peter, the other at the police station near the city. The prisoners are classified in these prisons as far as the accommodation will admit.

106. There is also a juvenile asylum for boys within a few miles of Bridgetown, where there are facilities for employing the children in agricultural labour. I regret, however, to be compelled to report, that this prison is wholly inadequate as a reformatory. The boys are generally the victims of neglect, but the sentences are so short that they are thrown again on the world before it is possible that they can have derived any material benefit from the instruction which the institution ought to place within their reach.

107. I have spared no efforts to inculcate the necessity of adopting efficient measures for the reformation of juvenile offenders, and I am sanguine that the present Legislature will be able to concur in a measure that will meet the necessities of the case.

Charitable Institutions.

108. In this colony the charitable institutions are chiefly supported by legislative aid, and I am of opinion that on the whole this is the best mode of securing their efficiency and good management. The institutions of most importance are the general hospital, the lunatic asylum, and lazaretto, but the vestries of the parishes find it both convenient and economical to administer relief through the agency of charitable societies, many of which exist in the island.

Concluding Remarks.

109. In an island so densely populated as Barbados, in which the population is certainly pressing on the subsistence fund in a much greater degree than could be wished, it is not to be expected that the peasantry can enjoy the prosperity which is to be met with in that class in some of the adjoining islands, where land is of little value and labour in great demand.

110. But whatever may be the superior advantages enjoyed by the labouring classes in the neighbouring colonies, they have not been deemed sufficient to induce the Barbadians to abandon their native land in any considerable number, and it is satisfactory to think that so simple and cheap a remedy for over-population is always within reach. Several adjoining colonies which could be reached within a few hours, would gladly pay all the expenses attendant on the introduction of immigrants, if the labour market of this colony should be overstocked. I do not therefore entertain the apprehensions on this head which have been occasionally stated by a portion of the island press.

111. Whatever doubts may be entertained as to the condition of the labouring classes, there can be none as to the prosperity of the landed proprietors, but especially those of them who are free from debt.

112. The immense profit on the production and manufacture of sugar, which is yielded by the prices now current, has led to great speculation in land. More than one instance has come under my notice in which estates have been resold, after having been held for a short period, at an advance of 5,000*l.* to 6,000*l.*

113. In most countries the increased profit derived from the cultivation of the staple product would be shared between the landowner and the labourer; but so abundant is the supply of labour in this colony that wages have not advanced, while land readily commands such a price as to startle the timid members of society.

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114. It may not be uninteresting to those who have long been in the habit of believing that these colonies have materially retrograded since the time of slavery, that I should notice one important change in the social condition of the inhabitants of Barbados. I have been assured that forty years ago the roads were so bad that carriages could scarcely be used. Families then came to town on horseback, and there were only five or six carriages in the island.

115. There are now about 800 pleasure carriages, and more than 400 vehicles of burthen in the island, and the cab licences in Bridgetown for the present year will exceed 70 in number.

116. It would, I have little doubt, be easy to adduce other evidence to support the assertion that this colony was never in a more prosperous condition during any former period of its history.

117. It is much to be deplored that so large a number of the proprietors of the island are permanent absentees. Constant daily labour for hire must be the lot of the masses; but there are duties, and most important ones, devolving on the wealthy landowners of such a colony.

118. The dwellings of the labourers are such as to retard civilization, in fact, to render its progress almost hopeless. The education of the children is insufficiently attended to, and no adequate means are adopted to train up the rising generation in better habits.

119. It may be urged that the responsibility for such shortcomings as I have adverted to ought properly to rest upon the members of the Colonial Legislature, and certainly I should be unwilling to relieve them from their full share of it; but I am so sensible of the benefits derived by the people from the residence of enlightened and truly benevolent gentlemen,—and such I believe many of the resident proprietors to be,—that I cannot withhold the expression of my regret that their example is not more generally followed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. HINCKS.

The Right Hon. H. Labouchere, M.P.,
&c. &c. &c.

GRENADA.

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No. 13.

No. 13.

Copy of DESPATCH from Governor Hincks to the Right Hon. H. Labouchere, M.P.

(No. 24.)

Windward Islands, Barbados, June 22, 1857.

Sir, (Received July 17, 1857.)

No. 33. 1 June 1857.

I have the honour to transmit to you the Grenada Blue Book for the year 1856, together with a copy of the accompanying Report, from Lieut.-Governor Kortright.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. HINCKS.

The Right Hon. H. Labouchere, M.P.,
&c. &c. &c.

Encl. in No. 13.

Enclosure in No. 13.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant Governor Kortright to Governor Hincks.

(No. 33.)

Sir, Government Office, Grenada, June 1, 1857.

I have the honour to transmit the Blue Book for the year 1856, together with my Report thereon.

2. As your Excellency is aware, I assumed the Government of the Island on the 31st January of the present year; my Report will consequently be wanting in much information which personal observation alone would have

enabled me to furnish, and will be little more than a condensed analysis of the Returns contained in the Blue Book.

3. At the close of 1855, the arrears of revenue amounted to 439*l.* 0*s.* 2*d.*, and the sum due by the treasury, principally on account of public officers' salaries, schools, and some few unpaid votes of the Legislature, was 3,902*l.* 10*s.* 7*d.*, leaving the net sum of 3,463*l.* 10*s* 3*d.* to be raised in 1856, over and above the amount required to meet the actual expenditure of the Colony for the year.

4. The Legislature proposed to effect this by imposing an additional tax of 2½ per cent. on all unenumerated articles in the Import Tariff, already liable to an *ad valorem* duty of 5 per cent.; and all trades, professions, and callings were also taxed. Public officers' salaries were to be subject to an impost of 5 per cent. The Bill was, however, disallowed by Her Majesty's Government, and a new Money Bill was passed in October.

5. The fixed revenue of the Colony amounted in 1855 to 9,849*l.* 11*s.* 3*d.*, and in 1856 to 10,837*l.* 11*s.* 10*d.*, showing an increase during the latter year of 988*l.* 0*s.* 7*d.* This amount does not include the balance at the end of the previous year, and which has been improperly inserted in the Blue Book as a part of the fixed revenue raised in 1856.

6. The Incidental Receipts also exceeded those of 1855 by 1,459*l.* 17*s.* 1*d.* This large increase is to be accounted for principally by the appropriation on the part of the Legislature, for the general uses of the Colony, of 800*l.* from the Harbour Fund, up to that time exclusively at the disposal of the Harbour Commissioners.

7. The total fixed and incidental revenues, therefore, in 1856, amounting to 15,651*l.* 0*s.* 11*d.*, were in excess of those of 1855 by 1,647*l.* 17*s.* 8*d.*

8. The expenditure in 1856, viz., 15,453*l.* 19*s.*, was less than the expenditure of the previous year by 470*l.* 4*s.* 6*d.* The comparative yearly statement of the colonial expenditure (page 35 of the Blue Book) shows that under some heads larger amounts were expended in 1856 than in 1855, but that under the majority a decrease has taken place. For instance, under the heads "Civil" and "Military" appear respectively the sums of 618*l.* 5*s.* 9*d.* and 131*l.* 7*s.* 3*d.* increased expenditure in 1856. In that year provision had to be made to pay the salaries of the Surveyor of Public Works and the division officers charged with the general superintendence of the public roads for the whole year; these officers having been first created during the year 1855 a smaller amount was required for the salaries to the end of that year.

9. The Act appointing the division officers will expire at the end of the present year, and it will then be for the consideration of the Legislature whether it shall be renewed. I believe that a more efficient system of supervision may be introduced by authorizing the road surveyor to hire overseers at a daily rate of wages, when necessary, and whenever practicable to enter into contracts for the work on the roads.

10. The expenses incurred under the head "Military" were consequent on the establishment of the Militia, which did not exist the previous year.

11. Besides the fixed revenue and incidental expenses above referred to, the local revenues raised for special purposes amount in the aggregate to a considerable sum.

12. In the town of St. George 3 per cent., and in St. Patrick's and Grenville 2 per cent, on the assessed rental of houses, appropriated by the Street Commissioners as a street fund, yielded a sum of 359*l.* 17*s.* 5*d.*

13. The road tax, besides 18,056 days of statute labour, produced in 1856 993*l.* 2*s.* 7*d.*

14. One third of the duty levied on rum consumed in the colony, or 4*d.* per gallon, is set apart for immigration purposes. 1,165*l.* 7*s.* 7*d.* was raised from this source during the past year.

15. In order to provide for the maintenance of a supply of water in St. George's, it has become necessary to replace all the old water pipes by new ones, the former having become so defective as to be utterly unserviceable. The sum raised by the tax of two per cent. on the assessed rental of houses, provided it amounts to 10*l.*, and 2*s.* when the assessed rental is under 10*l.*, and 3*d.* per ton on vessels clearing from St. George's, and 2*d.* on vessels clearing from other ports in the island has not exceeded 176*l.* 15*s.* 4*d.* A loan, therefore, of 1,000*l.*, bearing interest at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum, the principal to be repaid in four equal instalments, the first at the expiration of the

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second year after the loan, and the others at the end of each of the following three years, has been contracted to enable the Water Commissioners to provide for the expenses of the work.

16. The Colony Hospital, under the management of a governor and board of directors, is partly supported by an annual grant of the Legislature, which, in 1856, was 500*l.*, and by the rents of lands belonging to the corporation. Collections in aid of the funds are occasionally made at the several places of worship. At the commencement of the year the institution was in debt to the amount of 312*l.* 8*s.* 10*d.* After deducting from its income the 500*l.* granted by the Legislature, which was a part of the fixed revenue of the colony, the sum collected was 212*l.* 1*s.* 4½*d.*

17. The total amount of local revenues collected in 1856 was 3,073*l.* 18*s.* 11½*d.*

18. This statement shows that the total sum raised from direct and indirect taxes, and from incidental receipts from various sources for the support of the several public departments and institutions of the colony for the past year was not less than 19,524*l.* 19*s.* 10½*d.*

19. In comparing the estimated value of the imports in 1855 and 1856, there appears to be a decrease in the latter year amounting to 6,966*l.* 18*s.* 2*d.* This deficiency is perceptible in imports from all countries with the exception of the United States, from which the value of the imports have exceeded those of 1855 by 7,029*l.* 4*s.* 7*d.*

20. The great bulk of the imports is for consumption on the estates, the use of imported articles by the lower orders being very limited. The great falling off under this head can only be accounted for by the planters having had to resort to the strictest economy, and to reduce their importations proportionably to the smallness of the crops and the low price of produce during the last few years. As the prospects of the planters brighten, I have no doubt that the imports will materially increase.

21. I regret to say that the education of the lower orders has made very little progress in Grenada. The money granted yearly by the Legislature in aid of schools reduced from 1,000*l.* to 500*l.* in 1856, has not been of that benefit to the cause of education that might have been expected under a more judicious system. Without wishing to detract from the zeal and usefulness of the clergy of all denominations who have had the superintendence of the schools, I do not think, unless there can be established a more constant and a stricter supervision of them, and an uniform system of education is introduced throughout the schools of the colony, that any improvement is likely to take place. The want of properly trained teachers is no doubt in a great measure the cause of the inefficiency of the schools, and although the teachers at present employed are generally persons of intelligence, it struck me forcibly on my visit to the several schools that a great portion of them were wanting in that very necessary faculty of being able to impart knowledge to others. It is to be lamented that the effort to educate the lower orders should be regarded by many persons here with a certain degree of jealousy and coldness, as likely to impair their usefulness as labourers; they cannot or will not believe that the more general education becomes, the less likely is it to have the effect they anticipate. They judge from the fact of the few who have acquired a little knowledge, having thereby raised themselves above the level of their more ignorant companions.

22. The only important public works that have been completed during the course of the year are bridges over some of the streams. The expense of these has generally been defrayed from the road fund of the parish in which they are situated. The only exception is in the case of the bridge across the mouth of the St. John's river in the vicinity of the town of St. George. The funds were provided by the sale of some surplus colonial stores appropriated to that purpose by resolution of the Legislature with the consent of the Executive. The cost was small in consequence of the woodwork having been principally framed from the materials of a former bridge which had been built at a great outlay, and which from want of a competent person to superintend the erection of it, had been so unskilfully constructed that it was swept away by the river shortly after it had been built.

23. I am happy to say that the cultivation of cocoa is gradually increasing. The negro population, finding that it is likely to be remunerative at a less expenditure of physical labour than the cultivation of sugar, are now beginning

very generally to turn their attention to it. The state of one of the largest cocoa plantations in the Island "Plaisance," the property of Mr. Ross, lately Attorney General of Grenada, reflects great credit on that gentleman; he attributes his success principally to the fact of his having made himself independent of the Creole labourers by locating a few Portuguese families on his property, whom he found to be always willing to work for him. I cannot help, however, recording my opinion, that to his personal supervision and management, more than to any other cause, he is indebted to the yearly increasing value of his property.

24. The prospects of the planters appear to have brightened very much lately, owing to the very fine crops and the rise in the price of sugar. The great difficulty they appear to have to struggle against at present is the want of continuous labour. They are urgent in their demands for immigrants, and I believe that the prosperity of the islands depends in a great measure on the supply of labour. The introduction of strangers might stimulate the native born negroes to exert themselves and to work more steadily than at present. I believe that two or three thousand coolies or Africans would find immediate employment here.

25. Of the natural capabilities and resources of Grenada, so much has at various times been said, that I shall merely endorse the opinion frequently expressed, that much might be done to increase the prosperity of the island, and to better the condition of individuals, if more energy and enterprise could be infused into the people. To recommendations on the subject of setting on foot any scheme likely to be productive of good, and offering a fair prospect of proving remunerative, but requiring a small amount of enterprise, the usual answer is "want of capital." I think with more regard to the real state of the case it should be "want of energy." It is true that persons generally have the greater portion of their funds employed in carrying on their several occupations, but even where the amount required is insignificant it is difficult to induce them to turn out of the beaten track they have pursued for years, and to try anything bearing the impress of novelty.

26. On my arrival here I was astonished to see seven or eight American whaling vessels anchored close to the mouth of the harbour, pursuing their calling by means of their boats within sight of the town. The idea naturally struck me that if, with all the expenses attending the fitting out of vessels and the provisioning and maintaining large crews, the whale fishery of Grenada could prove remunerative to strangers, how much more so might it be to us, having every facility for boiling the fish on shore and requiring only a few boats and implements to enable us to establish a lucrative business. I broached the subject to several persons of influence and recommended the formation of a whaling company, and offered to support the undertaking in every way in my power. The idea was readily adopted, calculations were made by which it appeared that 1,000*l.* would be sufficient to purchase the implements, &c., necessary to a commencement of operations on a small scale. Before any further steps could be taken a reaction took place and the scheme was abandoned.

27. The reports of the American whalers were very favourable, and they could not but be astonished that we should allow such a source of wealth lying at our very doors to be monopolised by strangers without an effort on our part to appropriate some portion of it.

28. In conclusion I have to beg that your Excellency will excuse this very imperfect Report, but I am anxious to transmit the Blue Book to you without further delay.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. H. KORTRIGHT.

His Excellency Governor Hincks,
&c. &c. &c.

TOBAGO.

TOBAGO.

No. 14.

No. 14.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor HINCKS to the Right Hon H. LABOUCHERE, M.P.

(No. 27.) Windward Islands, Barbadoes, July 24, 1857.

SIR, (Received August 18, 1857.)

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you the copy of a despatch from Lieut.-Governor Drysdale, forwarding the Tobago Blue Book for the year 1856.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. H. Labouchere, M.P., (Signed) F. HINCKS.
&c. &c. &c.

Encl. in No. 14.

Enclosure in No. 14.

(No. 33.)

SIR, Government House, Tobago, July 1, 1857.

MY recent arrival to assume the Government of this Island, and my desire not to retard the transmission of the Blue Book for the last year, precludes me from reporting so fully as I should otherwise have desired to do on the state of this Island.

2. In forwarding the Blue Book for 1856, it is satisfactory to find from the revenue returns, that a marked improvement has taken place, and that the Colonial Finances are beginning to assume a more healthy aspect.

3. The debt due to the Imperial Government is being reduced by the punctual payment of the periodical instalments, and the Local Treasury bills issued in March 1856 to sustain the public credit are being gradually redeemed and cancelled.

4. The labourers are reported to be well behaved and industrious, and owing to the extent to which Metairie cultivation is carried on in this Island, they participate largely in the benefits derived from the present remunerative prices of colonial produce.

I beg to annex the usual abstract of the annual Blue Book.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. V. DRYSDALE,
Lieut. Governor.

His Excellency the Governor-in-Chief,
&c. &c. &c.

ABSTRACT RETURNS from Blue Book for 1854, 1855, and 1856.

Revenue.

Year.	Customs Duties.			Assessed and other Taxes.	Total.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Import.	Export.	Tonnage.				
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1854	3,729	—	271	4,014	8,014	—	2,836
1855	3,509	—	312	4,760	8,581	567	—
1856	5,600	66	414	4,465	10,545	1,964	—

Expenditure, Colonial.

Year.	Civil Government.	Judicial.	Ecclesiastical.	Education.	Other Expenditure.	Total.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1854	2,529	607	722	337	1,803	8,014	—	2,759
1855	2,042	650	922	84	4,049	7,747	—	267
1856	1,583	1,170	1,446	503	7,869	12,571	4,824	—

Expenditure, Local and Parochial.

Nil.

Expenditure, Great Britain.

Year.	Civil.	Military.	Total.	Remarks.
	£	£	£	
1854	2,990		2,990	The troops were withdrawn from the island 16th January 1854.
1855	2,340	Nil.	2,340	
1856	2,340		2,340	

This Expenditure includes the Salaries of the Lieut.-Governor, the Stipendiary Magistrates, and Deputy Postmaster-General.

Population.

Year.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Remarks.
1854	7,430	7,775	15,205	The population according to the last census in June 1851 was 14,378.
1855	7,430	7,775	15,205	
1856	7,456	7,937	15,393*	

* White population about 140 souls.

Land.

Year.	Area in Square Miles.	Average under Cultivation.	Remarks.
1854	97 square miles, or 62,080 acres.	Estimated at 7,800	The quantity of provision ground cannot be ascertained.
1855		2,580 acres in canes	
1856		Estimated at 2,700 in canes.	

TOBAGO.

Coins and Currency.

Year.	Specie in Circulation.	Notes in Circulation.	Remarks.
1854 1855 1856	The Amount is unknown.	Notes of the Colonial Bank, Amount unknown, not more than 200*l.* or 300*l.*	There is no bank in Tobago.

Churches.

Year.	Church of England.	Other Denominations.	No. of Sittings.	Average Attendance.	Centesimal Proportion to the Population.	Remarks.
1854	7	9	7,350	6,335	41·6	7 Wesleyan and 3 Moravian Chapels.
1855	7	9	7,350	6,335	41·6	
1856	7	10	7,600	6,392	41·5	

Schools.

Year.	Church of England.	Other Denominations.	Total No. of Scholars.	Centesimal Proportion to the Population.	Remarks.
1854	443	1,485	1,928	12·6	—
1855	377	1,514	1,891	12·4	
1856	344	1,291	1,535	9·97	

Imports. *Exports.*

	VALUE IN STERLING.				VALUE IN STERLING.			
Year.	From Great Britain.	From British Colonies.	From Foreign Countries.	Total.	To Great Britain.	To British Colonies.	To Foreign Countries.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1854	16,751	33,002	2,554	52,307	49,642	112	—	49,754
1855	10,373	25,195	1,792	37,360	44,794	2,593	—	47,387
1856	20,992	38,392	610	59,994	70,226	9,553	10	79,789

Shipping.

	INWARDS.				OUTWARDS.			
Year.	From Great Britain.	From British Colonies.	From Foreign Countries.	Total.	To Great Britain.	To British Colonies.	To Foreign Countries.	Total.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
1854	2,913	2,490	424	5,827	2,913	2,490	424	5,827
1855	3,007	1,775	40	4,822	2,640	2,183	48	4,871
1856	3,814	3,069	210	7,093	3,678	2,753	210	6,641

ALBERT J. ALLOM,
Colonial Secretary.

ST. VINCENT.

No. 15.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Governor Hincks to the Right Hon. H. Labouchere, M.P.

(No. 34.)

Windward Islands, Barbadoes, March 17, 1857.

Sir, (Received April 18, 1857.)

I have the honour to transmit to you the Blue Book for St. Vincent for the year 1856, together with the Report accompanying it from Lieut.-Governor Eyre.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. H. Labouchere, M.P., &c. &c. &c. (Signed) F. HINCKS.

Enclosure in No. 15.

Report from Lieut.-Governor Eyre to Governor Hincks.

(No. 45.)

Sir, Government House, St. Vincent, March 9, 1857.

I have the honour to transmit to your Excellency in duplicate the Blue Book for St. Vincent for the year 1856, accompanied by the usual abstract returns, also in duplicate.

Three Enclosures.
Blue Book, 1856.
Abstract Returns, Nos. 1. and 2.
Return from Treasurer of Assets of the Colonial Treasury up to March 7, 1857.

2. In reporting upon the contents of the present volume, it is a matter of great gratification to me to be able to state, that although the returns for 1856 do not disclose any very marked advance upon those of 1855, the foundation has been laid for a great and progressive improvement which will tell most favourably in coming years. The debt of the Colony has been amply provided for; its revenue is fully equal to its legitimate necessary expenditure; and cultivation has been so largely extended during the last 18 months that the staple productions of the country during the current year will exceed by at least one fourth the amount of produce raised during the past year. But I proceed to notice such points as appear most important or interesting under their respective headings.

Revenue.

The amount raised in the Colony (14,172*l.* 3*s.* 8½*d.*) is less than that of 1855 (14,458*l.* 11*s.* 11*d.*) by 286*l.* 8*s.* 2½*d.*, and less than the average revenue of the six years preceding 1855 (15,885*l.* 1*s.* 3½*d.*) by 1,712*l.* 17*s.* 7*d.* This decrease arises chiefly from there having been no export or income taxes levied for 1856.

In addition to the revenue raised for the service of the year, a sum of 4,316*l.* 10*s.* was borrowed on the last day of 1856, to pay off the arrears of public debts outstanding since 1854, but as this was only to be applied after the commencement of 1857; and its repayment is especially provided for under Acts which come into effect during this year, the item does not properly appertain to the accounts of 1856.

Expenditure.

The gross expenditure, including that paid by Great Britain (17,036*l.*17*s.*4½*d.*), is less than that of 1855 (17,312*l.* 3*s.* 0½*d.*) by 275*l.* 5*s.* 8*d.*, and less than the average expenditure of the six years preceding 1855 (19,106*l.* 6*s.* 11*d.*) by 2,069*l.* 9*s.* 6½*d.*

This diminution is due chiefly to some reductions, and to a less expenditure having been incurred for schools and roads, whilst the large debt which had accumulated previous to 1855, and which on the 1st January of that year amounted to no less than 7,132*l.* 8*s.* 3*d.*, was being gradually paid off.

Public Debt.

	£	s.	d.
On January 1, 1855, the public debt amounted to -	7,132	8	3
On January 1, 1856, „ „ -	5,921	12	8
Showing that during 1855 there had been paid off -	1,210	15	7
On January 1, 1856, the public debt amounted to -	5,921	12	8
On January 1, 1857, „ „ -	3,809	10	7½
Showing that during 1856 there had been paid off -	2,112	2	0½

These sums too were paid off during the respective years out of funds usually and properly constituting part of the revenue applicable to the ordinary current expenditure; but to meet the remaining debt of 3,809*l.* 10*s.* 7½*d.* owing on the 1st January of the current year, and to procure a small additional sum for expenditure in repairs of churches, schools, &c., the amount of 4,316*l.* 10*s.*, already referred to under the head of Revenue, has now been borrowed (on the last day of 1856), and special provision has been made for repaying this loan and interest with ease and certainty in about two years and a half, without in any way trenching upon or interfering with the ordinary current revenue.

The total public debt of the Colony, therefore, now consists of the loan of 4,316*l.* 10*s.*, which, with interest up to the 30th June 1857, when the first instalment becomes due, will amount to 4,450*l.* But there is already in the treasury, after paying all salaries and accounts due to the end of February 1857, a surplus balance of 1,617*l.* 11*s.* 7*d.*, independently of the unexpended balance of the loan itself, which amounts to 439*l.* 14*s.* 2*d.* additional; so that after paying all liabilities up to the end of February the total assets remaining in the treasury amount to 2,057*l.* 5*s.* 9*d.*

This information is given in the Treasurer's return, herewith forwarded.

I have myself, therefore, no doubt whatever but that the provision made for paying off the loan will easily and fully do so within two years and a half from the commencement of 1857.

This is a most satisfactory state of things, and especially so when it is considered that the ordinary revenue to be raised to meet the current expenditure, and the special revenue to be raised to liquidate the debt, are not together estimated to amount to more than 15,320*l.* per annum; a sum less by 565*l.* 1*s.* 3½*d.* than the average revenue raised during the six years preceding 1855 (15,885*l.* 1*s.* 3½*d.**), when there was no special debt being paid off, but, on the contrary, when the very large debt of 7,132*l.* 8*s.* 3*d.*, already referred to, was being accumulated, in addition to the expenditure of the entire annual income. I trust that to have attained this very satisfactory result in the short space of two years and a quarter, and so soon after the depression caused by the cholera, and by the long-continued low prices of West Indian produce, will be gratifying to your Excellency and to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, and will be considered both as indicating a really sound and healthy state of the Colony at present, and as holding out a cheering and promising prospect for the future.

Legislation.

Twenty-four Acts were passed during the year; amongst which one of the most important was that modifying the constitution, by substituting in the place of the Privy Council (composed wholly of Members of the Legislative Council) an Executive Council, comprising an equal number of members from the Legislative Council and from the House of Assembly.

This Act is defective in some respects, and especially because by an unwise limitation of the prerogative serious difficulties may occur in the working of it.

* See Tabular Return forwarded in Despatch No. 18., January 22, 1857, printed at page 58.

So great, however, is the jealousy with which any change which is thought an innovation is regarded, that the Executive was obliged to accept the Act in its present shape.

With all its imperfections, however, I believe the new machinery will be found a most useful and important improvement upon the former state of things, and that it will gradually pave the way for a more satisfactory and perfect enactment.

The other principal Acts consist of a series hinging one upon the other, and having in view the payment of the public debt by loan, the making provision for the repayment of this loan by special taxation, and the arranging a prospective reduction of the expenditure as certain offices fall vacant. All these objects have been most satisfactorily attained.

Another very important Act is one "to make provision for carrying into "execution in the Island of St. Vincent, and its dependencies 'the West "'India Encumbered Estates Act, 1854;'" and as the Home Government have, with the greatest promptness and liberality, recently appointed, on account of St. Vincent alone, a commissioner in England, with a salary of 500*l.* per annum, for the purpose of facilitating the carrying out the provisions of this Act, strong hopes may reasonably be entertained that many of the difficulties arising from overburdened estates and absentee proprietorship may gradually be removed, and a fresh stimulus be given to an increased cultivation and a more careful management of estates for the future.

Altogether, the session of 1856 must be regarded as having been a most fruitful, useful, and important one.

Political Franchise.

The present Blue Book gives the returns for a general election in January 1856, by contrasting which with similar returns for the previous election in January 1853 the progress made in understanding and exercising their political privileges by the freeholders will be readily seen.

	Members returned.	Voters registered.	Voters polled.
At general election 1856 -	19	636	211
At general election 1853 -	19	293	130

Showing that in three years the number of voters registered had become more than doubled, and that the number who actually took a part in the elections had increased by two thirds.

After all, however, it is a sad mockery of representative institutions that 211 individuals (subject to all the influences which may be brought to bear upon such a limited number) should return the whole nineteen members to the House of Assembly, and whose acts when there, whether for good or evil, are binding upon the whole community, numbering upwards of 30,000.

Having, however, on many former occasions, fully and strongly stated the convictions I entertain, after a practical acquaintance with the working of the system, of the utter unsuitability of the existing constitutions to the present state and wants of the smaller West Indian Islands, I abstain from any further comment now.

Education.

Owing to the financial difficulties of the colony, but little provision has been made from colonial funds for education during the last two years.

The following shows the number of scholars returned as attending schools during the last five years:

Year.	Total number of scholars attending all schools.	Contributions from colonial funds.
1856 -	1,960 -	£ 150
1855 -	1,553 -	150
1854 -	1,700 -	955
1853 -	1,977 -	955
1852 -	2,115 -	925

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It thus appears that even previous to the reduction of the aid granted from the colonial revenue the number of scholars attending all schools of all denominations had fallen off at the rate of about 200 annually, and it is therefore the more gratifying to find that during 1856, although this aid was not augmented, an increase of 400 took place in the number of children attending the schools in that year, over that of the previous year.

This increase is chiefly amongst schools in connection with the Church of England, but it also comprehends the establishment of Roman Catholic schools, numbering 158 scholars.

Now that the financial embarrassments of the colony are at an end, the legislature will again be able to return to the amount of aid formerly granted for education, and it is to be hoped that a point upon which the future welfare of the colony so vitally depends will meet with a prompt and liberal consideration.

I have, myself, upon every practicable occasion, urged upon the legislature, in the strongest manner I could, the paramount duty of making early and adequate provision for education.

Already a small sum has been granted for the repairs of the Wesleyan schoolhouse, and a larger sum has been voted for the repairs of churches. These are, I trust, but an indication of what the legislature will do during the current year, when the question of the general expenditure for the year comes before it, and the subject of education must necessarily obtain its special consideration.

Imports and Exports.

The total amount of imports in 1856 (126,104*l.* 11*s.* 11*d.*) shows an increase upon 1855 (112,193*l.*) of 13,611*l.* 11*s.* 11*d.*, but is less than that of 1854 (145,772*l.*) by 19,667*l.* 8*s.* 1*d.*

Some of the principal items in which an increased importation has taken place in 1856 are beef and pork, bread and biscuit, coals, dried fish, flour, manures, machinery, staves and chooks, &c.; in fact such articles as from an extended cultivation, and an improvement in the means of the planter, there was most likely to be an increased demand for.

The total amount of exports in 1856 (123,422*l.* 1*s.* 6*d.*) shows an increase upon 1855 (101,912*l.*) of 21,510*l.*

This increase is chiefly due to an increase in the value of sugar and to a larger growth of arrowroot. The actual quantity of sugar grown in 1856 exceeds that of 1855 by about 129,562 lbs., whilst the production of arrowroot has increased to fully one half more than it was last year. Molasses and rum have fallen somewhat short compared with the quantities made in 1855.

Owing to the length of time which it takes to prepare for, plant, and reap a crop of sugar, the extension which has taken place in the sugar cultivation during the last two years will not begin to tell in the returns until the present year 1857. For this year it is estimated that the crop of sugar will exceed that of 1856 by fully one-fourth, and in 1858 the increase will be still greater. Arrowroot planting is also being rapidly extended, and it only requires a renewal of immigration, and a continuance of the present remunerating prices of West Indian produce, to restore St. Vincent to its pristine prosperity.

The capabilities of the island are immense; its soil fertile; its seasons favourable; its climate probably the most healthy of all our tropical possessions; and the extent of waste land, which, if the present prosperity continue, may be profitably put under cultivation, for sugar or arrowroot, is still very large.

Sanatory State.

The usual good sanatory state of the island has prevailed during the past year, and there has been neither epidemic nor serious illness of any kind.

Crime.

The comparison of cases brought before the Court of Grand Sessions shows the following result:

	Committed.	Convicted.
1855	36	21
1856	14	8

Of these eight convictions, only one was for a very serious offence, that of murder, and even here the evidence did not clearly substantiate an intention to kill.

With regard to general commitments by the magistrates there were:

In 1855, 166 persons in gaol under sentences from magistrates;

In 1856, 187 persons in gaol under sentences from magistrates;

an increase having taken place in the number of cases of assault and of petty larceny.

On the whole, the state of Crime in the colony must be considered as favourable rather than otherwise.

Having now sufficiently touched upon the various details comprehended in the Blue Book returns, it remains for me to bring under the notice of Her Majesty's Government one point of great importance to the future well-being and prosperity of this Colony, namely, the necessity of renewed immigration.

The decimation of the population by cholera in 1854, and the increased demand for labour since, in consequence of extended cultivation, have combined to render the existing supply of labourers insufficient; and I would respectfully suggest, that Her Majesty's Government should by every proper means give the strongest encouragement in their power to a renewal of immigration, as one of the chief means of developing more fully the ample though latent resources of this fine and fertile Colony.

I have, &c.

His Excellency the Governor-in-Chief, Barbados.

(Signed) E. EYRE.

1856.—Colony of St. Vincent.

No. 1.

Return, in a Tabular Form, for the last Year in which they can be made, of the Gross Revenues under their different Heads, exhibiting the Cost of Collection and any Deductions made in their Progress to the Public Treasury.

Gross Revenue.

Customs.	Tonnage Dues.	Taxes and Excise.	Fines and Forfeitures.	Fees of Office.	Lighthouse Dues.	Land and Casual and Territorial.	Casual and Public Works.	Immigrants' Tax.	Interest.	Miscellaneous Receipts.	Gross Amount of Revenue.	Cost of Collection.
£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.							£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
8,300 1 3	1,304 8 6	3,571 5 9	741 4 4½	—	—	—	—	—	—	255 3 10 4,316 10 0*	18,488 13 8½	1,200 19 5† Collected by Police Magistrates and Gaoler.
										4,571 13 10		

* Loan from Colonial Bank.

† The above is the Amount of Salaries for 1856, of Officers collecting Revenue including Treasurers' Salary.

No. 2.

Return, in a Tabular Form, for the last Year in which they can be made, of the Disbursements under their different Heads, showing the Authority under which such Disbursements were made.

Expenditure.

Civil Establishment.	Judicial Establishment.	Ecclesiastical Establishment.	Education.	Pensions.	Police.	Gaols.	Roads.	Expenses of the Legislature.	Hospitals.	Revenue Department and Drawbacks.	Miscellaneous.		Total.	Authority.
£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
587 2 4	3,719 12 5	2,029 16 11	137 10 0	48 16 5	1,860 18 1½	866 14 3	275 0 0	486 19 4	—	1,577 15 7	Grant to Agricultural Society -	50 0 0	14,266 17 4½	Principally by Acts of Legislature.
											Board of Health Accounts - -	660 15 0½		
											Public Accounts -	1,435 6 6½		
											Repairs of Public Buildings -	80 7 0½	- -	By Votes of Legislature.
											Printing and Stationery - -	269 19 8		
											Casualties -	134 15 4½	- -	Principally by Vote of Legislature.
											Treasury Notes -	45 8 4	- -	By Act of Legislature.
												2,676 12 0		

Revenue.

Year.	Custom Duties.			Assessed and other Taxes.	Judicial Fines.	Miscellaneous.	Total.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Imports.	Tonnage.	Excise.						
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1854 - -	10,719 8 10	1,381 14 2	3,228 12 0	Nil.	337 7 0½	1,500 8 3	17,177 10 3½	—	—
1855 - -	8,189 7 11	1,171 10 0	3,661 5 6	702 4 8	648 3 10	86 0 9	14,458 11 11	—	2,718 18 4½
1856 - -	8,300 1 3	1,304 8 6	3,279 12 6	348 18 3	741 4 4½	4,514 8 10	18,488 13 8½	4,030 1 9½	—

Expenditure.

Year.	Civil.	Judicial.	Ecclesiastical.	Education.	Police.	Prisons.	Other Expenditure.	Total.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1854 - -	2,357 9 7	2,966 16 5	2,444 18 0	903 13 9	1,934 10 0½	980 1 0	6,196 6 1	17,783 4 10½	—	—
1855 - -	2,383 16 9½	3,481 3 9	2,472 10 3	152 16 3	1,676 19 5½	933 11 9	3,441 4 9½	14,542 3 0½	—	3,241 1 10
1856 - -	2,651 17 3	3,719 12 5	2,029 16 11	137 10 0	1,860 18 1½	866 14 3	3,000 8 5	14,266 17 4½	—	275 5 8

ST. VINCENT.

RETURN of all ASSETS of the COLONIAL TREASURY up to date, after deducting all outstanding Warrants; all Salaries and Accounts (so far as known) up to the end of February being also paid or deducted.

	£	s.	d.
Unexpended Balance of the Loan - -	439	14	2
General Balance from all other Sources - -	1,617	11	7
Total Assets in the Treasury - -	2,057	5	9

Treasury, St. Vincent,
March 7, 1857.

WM. GRANT,
Treasurer.

(TABULAR RETURN referred to in Note at foot of page 52.)

YEAR.	Total Revenue raised in the Colony.	Proportion of Revenue raised under Taxes upon Exports or Incomes.	REMARKS.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
1849	15,721 12 8	4,830 5 10	All these amounts are copied from the Blue Books for the respective years. Average total revenue collected in the years (1849 to 1854 inclusive), 15,885*l.* 1*s.* 3½*d.* Average proportion of the total revenue which was varied during the same six years for Export and Income Taxes, 2,981*l.* 15*s.* 0½*d.*
1850	16,305 9 11	3,707 18 8	
1851	15,827 10 8	2,619 9 2	
1852	14,391 12 7	460 4 4	
1853	17,311 14 7	6,272 12 4	
1854	15,752 7 3½	- - -	In addition to the revenue raised in the colony in 1854, a loan of 1,425*l.* 3*s.* was obtained by sale of Treasury Notes, but for the repayment of which no special provision was made, and a large portion of it therefore constituted part of the public debt of the colony on 1st January 1857.
1855	14,458 11 11	702 4 8	
1856	14,172 3 8½	348 18 3	In addition to the revenue raised in the colony in 1856, a loan of 4,316*l.* 10*s.* was obtained from the bank to clear off the accumulated liabilities of former years, but special provision was made to pay off this loan in about two years and a half without interfering with the ordinary current revenue and expenditure.
	Estimated Total Revenue to be raised in the Colony.	Proportion of Revenue estimated to be raised under Taxes upon Exports or Incomes.	
1857	15,320 0 0	2,000 0 0	Out of the estimated revenue of 15,320*l.* for 1857, besides meeting all necessary current expenditure for the year, provision is made to pay off 2,000*l.* of the loan of 4,316*l.* 10*s.* obtained on December 31, 1856, to meet the then unpaid liabilities of the colony; and as provision is made for raising a similar sum from the same sources in 1858 and 1859, the whole of the loan and interest will be paid off in two and a half years, without imposing any additional taxation whatever, and without leaving any of the necessary current expenditure for those years unprovided for.

ST. LUCIA.

No. 16.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Governor Hincks to the Right Hon. H. Labouchere, M.P.

(No. 20.)

Windward Islands, Barbadoes, April 27, 1857.

Sir, (Received May 18, 1857.)

I have the honour to transmit to you the St. Lucia Blue Book for 1856, with the accompanying Report from Mr. Drysdale, Colonial Secretary and Administrator of the Government.

2. Having recently had occasion to address you regarding the state of education in St. Lucia, I have now to beg your consideration of the 7th, 8th, and 9th paragraphs of Mr. Drysdale's Despatch, with reference to this most important question.

3. You will, I am sure, be gratified to receive so favourable a report of the general condition of St. Lucia as Mr. Drysdale has been able to give.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. H. Labouchere, M.P., &c. &c. &c. (Signed) F. HINCKS.

Enclosure in No. 16.

(No. 39.)

Sir, St. Lucia, April 20, 1857.

I have the honour to transmit to your Excellency the Blue Book for 1856 (in duplicate), together with the usual annual Report thereon. The returns under the heads of revenue and expenditure for the year 1856 exhibit a satisfactory result, there being an increase of revenue of 1,468*l.* 13*s.* 10½*d.* over that of 1855, which was 12,145*l.* 6*s.* 10½*d.*, whilst the expenditure for the year was 12,734*l.* 10*s.* 6*d.*, against 14,791*l.* 8*s.* 11*d.* of the previous year, or a balance of expenditure of 2,056*l.* 18*s.* 5*d.*

2. The customs returns of imports and exports in like manner show an increase, which may, however, in some measure be ascribed to a more correct valuation of goods being made on the entry or clearance of vessels from the port; and at the same time the diminished expenditure may also be attributed to the absence of any extraordinary outlay, such as was occasioned in the preceding year for the payment of the expenses incurred during the prevalence of cholera throughout the island.

3. On the 31st December 1856 the treasurer's accounts showed a balance of cash of 643*l.* 7*s.* 1*d.*, and 526*l.* 9*s.* 6*d.* amount of outstanding advance warrants, besides a sum of 1,886*l.* at interest in the colonial bank to the credit of the Immigration Fund and the Road Loan Sinking Fund.

4. To these balances may also be added a sum of 499*l.* 8*s.* 7½*d.* remaining at the end of the year to the credit of the Education Fund, making a total of 3,545*l.* 5*s.* 3½*d.*, subject to payment of 1,597*l.* 14*s.* 10*d.* special balances, leaving 1,948*l.* 10*s.* 5½*d.* to the credit of the Colony.

5. This satisfactory state of the island finances is still further manifested by the fact that the entire amount of the purchase money of the Government buildings bought in 1851, and amounting, with interest, to 4,080*l.* sterling, has been paid off, and the property liberated from all liabilities or incumbrances.

6. The only public debt existing against the Colony is the Imperial loan of 3,000*l.*, which was taken in 1852 for the restoration of the roads and bridges of the island. This debt, however, is redeemable only after twenty years, and provision has been made by a permanent Ordinance for the payment of the interest and sinking fund.

7. There is no change to report in regard to the important question of education, the average attendance at the schools continuing much the same. In my last Report on the Blue Book I had occasion to remark on one of the principal causes of the comparatively small attendance of children at the public schools. Since then the subject has been brought under the consideration of

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the Board of Education, and measures are now in progress having for their object a change in the system of selecting the teachers, which it is expected will operate advantageously in encouraging a larger attendance of pupils, by inspiring more confidence in the minds of the Roman Catholic Clergy, whose influence and countenance is essentially necessary to secure the attendance of the great mass of children, whose parents are almost all of that persuasion.

8. It is contemplated at the same time to establish a normal school for training young men as teachers, to be hereafter distributed in the rural districts.

9. The system to be adopted is that of the Irish National School; and as the teacher or superintendent to be selected for its introduction will be a person of approved principles and education, an opportunity will be afforded to parents capable of affording it to place their sons under his care as pupils,—a higher class of schools for youths being much wanted in the island.

10. The militia force, which at the end of 1855 was returned as consisting of 567 officers and men, has been since diminished considerably by the exclusion, on a revision of the muster rolls, of many unqualified and ineligible individuals, who had been enrolled at the time the Militia Ordinance first came into operation.

11. The returns furnished by the Adjutant General's Department show the present total strength of the militia to be 353 officers, non-commissioned officers, and men; the northern battalion being 230, and the southern battalion 120. I regret to say, that for some time past the discipline of the regiment has become very lax, and that owing to the apathy and indifference of the officers of the southern battalion the parades for drill exercise are evaded, or the duties so negligently performed that no good result can be expected.

12. The northern battalion of the militia, which assembles at Castries, the seat of Government, has, however, been better sustained; and from the advantages which the officers and men have had in being drilled under a competent military instructor, they may be considered now as an efficient body of men.

13. Both officers and men of the northern battalion have procured their regimental uniforms, but only a few of the southern battalion have complied with the law in this respect.

14. Five hundred stand of percussion guns given to the Colony by Her Majesty's Government for the use of the island militia have been received since the commencement of the year. Six 6-pounder field guns which were promised at the same time by Her Majesty's Secretary for War have not yet arrived.

15. The want of vigour in the application of the provisions of the Militia Law, and the little interest shown in respect to the advancement of the militia, is in a great degree to be attributed to the belief entertained by many, that the law establishing a militia will be now suspended or abolished on the conclusion of peace with Russia, and also to the known fact that a change in the present organization of the force has been recommended to Her Majesty's Government, with a view to a substitution of voluntary enrolment for compulsory service, as now required.

16. The following Ordinances were passed by the Legislature during the year:—

No. 1. 15th July 1856.—An Ordinance for fixing rates and duties to be raised for the public service of the year 1857, and for appropriating the same.

No. 2. 15th July 1856.—An Ordinance to repeal the Ordinance of 15th June 1852, entitled "An Ordinance to impose a tax upon the rental of "houses and lots of land in certain towns and villages of this island, and "to appropriate the same to purposes of local improvement."

No. 3. 15th July 1856.—An Ordinance to give to the ordinary Justices of the Peace of this Colony the same jurisdiction in cases of vagrancy as is conferred on the Stipendiary Magistrates of the said Colony by the Royal Order in Council of the 7th September 1838, and to amend sections 6th and 11th of the said Order in Council.

No. 4. 15th July 1856.—An Ordinance to repeal the Ordinance of the 6th day of May 1852 for amending the No. 6. of the 2d of May 1850, entitled "An Ordinance for constituting a corporate body in the town of "Castries, and for enabling the town of Soufriere and the several rural "districts in the island of Saint Lucia to incorporate themselves under the

" provisions of this Ordinance," and for declaring to be ineligible to the office of town councillor or auditor certain public officers other than those exempted by section 17 of the Ordinance No. 22. of the 18th August 1851.

No. 5. 15th July 1856.—An Ordinance to amend the Ordinance No. 6. of the 2d May 1850, entitled " An Ordinance for constituting a corporate " body in the town of Castries, and for enabling the town of Soufriere " and the several rural districts in the island of Saint Lucia to incorporate " themselves under the provisions of this Ordinance."

No. 6. 17th July 1856.—An Ordinance to suspend for a limited period the duties imposed on the exportation of sugar, rum, and molasses under the Royal Order in Council of the 18th day of October 1854.

No. 7. 17th July 1856.—An Ordinance to amend and continue until the 27th day of July 1857 the Ordinance of this island of the 27th day of July 1855 for amending the Ordinance No. 7. of the 13th February 1851, entitled " An Ordinance to raise funds for promoting the education of " the inhabitants of this island, and for facilitating their means of inter- " course by the construction of roads and bridges," in so far as regards the duty imposed upon the export of logwood from this island, as fixed by Schedule B. to the said Ordinance annexed.

17. Of these laws the most important in its operation is that by which the collection of the export duties imposed on sugar, rum, and molasses for immigration purposes has been for a time suspended. The revenue from this source was appropriated to the payment of the sinking fund, and interest of a loan of 15,000*l.* offered by the Imperial Government to provide for the introduction of coolie immigrants into the colony. The Ordinances to this effect were passed in 1854, and have been allowed and confirmed by Her Majesty; but objections have been since raised by the authorities in India to some of the provisions of the Immigration Ordinance, and no coolies have been yet sent to this island. The suspension of the Loan Ordinance is, moreover, likely still further to retard the arrival of immigrants; but the Ordinance so suspending the collection of the export duties for the space of one year was passed by the Legislature on the urgent solicitation of the proprietors and planters themselves, who complained of having to continue to pay this tax whilst no immigrants had arrived.

18. The great advance in the price of colonial produce has stimulated the planters to extend the cane cultivation, and efforts are being made by a more liberal use of manures to augment the sugar crop. Improved mill machinery for expressing the cane juice has been introduced upon several estates, and cultivation has been resumed upon some properties which had been partially or altogether abandoned.

19. The aspect of the country generally is more promising, and the prospects of the agriculturist are encouraging. The island has been free from the visitation of any epidemic, and continues healthy. The effects of cholera in 1854 are still felt in the rural districts, where the demand for labour is great; and the necessity for augmenting the labouring population by means of immigration remains still to be provided for, no coolie immigrants having yet arrived.

20. I have the honour to annex to this Report an abstract of the Blue Book, together with the following statistical returns:—

No. 1.—Return showing the population employed in agriculture, the rate of wages for labour, the average price of sugar, and the quantity of sugar exported, during the years 1851, 1852, 1853, 1854, 1855, and 1856.

No. 2.—Return of sugar estates in cultivation in 1856: average number of labourers for each estate; number of acres cultivated in canes; quantity of sugar made; quantity of rum distilled; quantity of molasses obtained; and proportion of sugar to each labourer employed.

No. 3.—Return of certain articles of importation during the years 1851–52–53–54–55 and 1856.

No. 4.—Return of staple exports from St. Lucia, from 1839 to 1856 inclusive.

I have, &c.

His Excellency
The Governor-in-Chief.

(Signed) J. V. DRYSDALE,
Administering the Government.

ST. LUCIA.

No. 1.

RETURN showing the POPULATION employed in AGRICULTURE, the Rate of Wages for Labour, the Average Price of Sugar, and the Quantity of Sugar exported, during the Years 1851, 1852, 1853, 1854, 1855, and 1856.

Year.	Population employed occasionally in Agriculture.	Average Rate of daily Wages.	Mean Rate of Wages.	Quantity of Sugar exported.	Average Price of 1 cwt. of Sugar.	Proportion which daily Wages bear to net Price of Sugar.
				Lbs.		
1851	3,807	8*d.* to 12*d.*	10*d.*	7,560,224	22*s.* 3*d.* or 267*d.*	26
1852	3,942	9½*d.* to 14*d.*	11¼*d.*	7,113,904	22*s.* 3*d.* or 267*d.*	23
1853	3,718	8*d.* to 12*d.*	10*d.*	6,883,072	24*s.* 6*d.* or 294*d.*	29
1854	3,180	9¾*d.* to 13½*d.*	11¼*d.*	6,635,045	24*s.* 1*d.* or 289*d.*	26
1855	3,201	10*d.* to 14*d.*	11*d.*	6,356,821	30*s.* 5*d.* or 365*d.*	33⅓
1856	3,366	10*d.* to 14*d.*	11*d.*	5,793,435	30*s.* 1*d.* or 361*d.*	32¾

J. V. DRYSDALE,
Colonial Secretary

No. 2.

RETURN of SUGAR ESTATES in Cultivation in 1856.

Number of Sugar Estates in Cultivation.	Average Number of Labourers for each Estate.	Number of Acres cultivated in Canes.	Quantity of Sugar made.	Quantity of Rum distilled.	Quantity of Molasses obtained.	Proportion of Sugar to each Labourer employed.
			Lbs.	Gall.	Gall.	Lbs.
85	39	3,600	5,793,435	88,190	183,721	1721.

J. V. DRYSDALE,
Colonial Secretary.

No. 3.

TABLE of certain ARTICLES of IMPORTATION during the Years 1851–52–53–54–55 and 1856.

Articles.	Weight or Measure.	1851.	1852.	1853.	1854.	1855.	1856.
Bread	Barrels	432	231	128	357	105	297
Butter	Cwts.	170 0 10	148 2 12	193 0 11	194 1 6	217 0 2	584 0 11
Cheese	„	52 2 20	51 1 9	23 3 9	49 0 22	46 1 13	79 0 12
Corn and Grain	Bushels	3,068	1,839	2,577	2,475	1,342	2,241
Corn Meal	Barrels	500	77	62	209	117	734
Fish, dry	Quintals	9,795	10,114	9,678	8,443	7,810	16,243
„ pickled	Barrels	313	769	299	481	146	333
„ smoked	Boxes	85	75	289	414	359	551
Flour, Wheat	Barrels	5,894	4,548	3,983	5,437	3,261	5,893
Lard	Cwts.	45 1 0	50 2 25	170 2 1	248 3 24	264 1 0	212 0 12
Meat, salted	„	1,540 3 10	786 3 18	579 0 2	1,599 0 20	675 0 0	283 3 0
Oil, olive	Gallons	4,765	4,318	3,952	4,210	4,599	8,123
Rice	Cwts.	907 3 16	2,054 2 22	1,029 3 12	1,204 3 17	518 3 2	1,344 1 3
Salt	Barrels	806	463	1,140	1,053	839	1,205
Tobacco, manufactured	Lbs.	5,532	6,590	6,656	10,210	4,193	4,035
Tobacco, unmanufactured	„	50,230	51,047	42,960	29,022	60,683	34,474
Vermicelli	„	2,494	2,676	3,914	2,983	2,819	2,626
Vinegar	Gallons	1,063	1,673	1,253	1,270	1,328	1,611
Wines	„	14,774	12,038	11,378	8,638	6,587	7,812
Live Stock	Head	381	450	551	690	333	272
British manufactured Goods	£	33,788 12 9	46,112 19 4	35,538 2 6	47,639 13 0	25,541 5 5	23,312 8 8
Value of Imports	£	68,881 5 11	81,001 2 7	72,650 6 4	96,278 11 0	55,514 4 6	91,901 1 0

Treasury, 15th April 1857.

(Signed) R. G. M'HUGH,
Her Majesty's Treasurer.

No. 4.

STATEMENT of STAPLE EXPORTS from ST. LUCIA, from 1839 to 1856 inclusive.

Date.	Sugar.	Coffee.	Molasses.	Rum.	Firewood.	Logwood.	Cocoa.	Farine Manioc.
Year.	Lbs.	Lbs.	Gallons.	Gallons.	Cords.	Tons.	Lbs.	Barrels.
1839	3,487,000	448,650	122,800	1,200	55	195	91,280	—
1840	3,625,500	411,000	67,000	13,200	115	197	105,450	—
1841	4,782,400	82,704	101,300	13,300	175	130	68,656	—
1842	6,461,000	59,100	127,200	9,200	158	131	55,650	—
1843	7,283,360	48,379	136,310	236	179	56	80,961	—
1844	6,983,300	25,312	111,800	11,200	168	51	44,800	—
1845	7,041,100	67,078	99,700	17,000	287	69	130,592	—
1846	5,224,800	65,856	197,420	3,559	351	82	123,456	—
1847	10,512,422	48,363	166,021	43,468	167	167	105,476	—
1848	6,533,968	19,722	120,822	13,921	399	180	107,512	—
1849	7,874,832	31,471	104,042	5,391	467	97	104,912	—
1850	6,530,608	11,722	105,774	840	452	148	89,635	—
1851	7,560,224	25,979	122,158	958	300	156	122,875	—
1852	7,113,904	30,520	151,130	3,400	474	93	134,721	1,437
1853	6,883,072	16,068	166,850	2,890	310	365	186,782	463
1854	6,635,045	145	106,200	12,500	325	1,154	161,216	23½
1855	6,356,821	745	102,835	38,848	200	1,294	137,931	—
1856	5,693,435	—	91,220	28,572	56	1,519	209,729	—

(Signed) R. G. M'HUGH,
Her Majesty's Treasurer.

Treasury, 15th April 1857.

ANTIGUA.

No. 17.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor HAMILTON to the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE, M.P.

(No. 39.)

Leeward Islands, Antigua,
June 15, 1857.
(Received July 17, 1857.)

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward in duplicate the "Blue Book" of this colony for the year 1856. The lateness of its transmission has arisen from the difficulty of preparing, on the first occasion, the returns of imports and exports in the manner now required by the Board of Trade, and the consequent delay in furnishing them from the colonial revenue department, upon which devolves the duty of their compilation.

Revenue and Expenditure.

2. The comparative statement of revenue shows an increase of receipts over those of last year amounting to 12,000*l.* 12*s.* 1¾*d.*

3. The whole of this sum, however, cannot be set down as a true addition to the public resources. 3,823*l.* 4*s.* 3*d.* have been raised by Treasury bills, under the Act of 14th January 1856, of which 1,000*l.* are in circulation as one pound notes, not bearing interest, and payable on demand in cash at the Treasury. The remaining portion of the sum brought to the temporary aid of the public chest by this measure was made repayable by moieties on the 1st February in 1857 and 1858, and the bills falling due in the present year have been redeemed. To this amount of 3,823*l.* 4*s.* 3*d.*, raised by Treasury

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bills, is to be added the sum of 889*l.* 1*s.* 11¾*d.* in excess of the lodgments from the savings' bank during the preceding year, and which cannot, as the colony is liable for its repayment when called for, be considered as revenue, although operating as a loan in meeting the exigencies of the public service. Deducting the aggregate of 4,712*l.* 6*s.* 2¾*d.* thus afforded from the total increase shown, there yet remains an excess of 7,283*l.* 5*s.* 11*d.* as true revenue. Of this, 3,629*l.* 9*s.* 10*d.* have been raised under the Act of January 1856, to meet the Treasury bills as they fall due. Without that amount it appears that the ordinary heads of revenue have in 1856 exceeded the production of 1855 in the sum of 3,658*l.* 16*s.* 1*d.* And in this circumstance is displayed satisfactory evidence of increase in trade and mercantile business consequent upon the revival of agricultural prosperity, for nearly the whole of the revenue, with the exception of the export duty, now for the first time imposed, is raised by tariff and tonnage duties, and the fluctuations of the receipts on other accounts very nearly balance. The amount for which the Treasury was authorized to issue Treasury bills on the security of duties imposed by the Act of 14th January was 6,000*l.*, of which, besides the 1,000*l.* obtained by the circulation of notes payable on demand, 5,000*l.* were intended to be raised on bills bearing interest at 5 per cent.; one moiety of which it was provided should be repayable on the 1st January 1857, and the remainder on the like day in 1858. It was found, however, that some unwillingness existed to invest for so short a time as one year, and preference was shown for the bills running to 1858. Thus only 600*l.* was obtained on the paper redeemable in 1857; and as the finances of the colony became, in the course of a short time, much more elastic, advantage was not taken of the Act to its full extent.

4. The expenditure has also exceeded that of the preceding year, but not in an equal degree with the difference of revenue. Apart from the fluctuations naturally expected under some heads, the increase is accounted for principally by disbursements of 1,200*l.* for repairs of government house, of 415*l.* for bounty on immigration from the Cape de Verdes, of 330*l.* on account of the recently established fire brigade, and of an increase of 795*l.* in the expense of the civil establishment. This last increase is caused by the remodelling of the departments of the colonial secretary, provost marshal, and registrar of deeds, which officers are now paid by fixed salaries, in lieu of the fees which formed a large portion of their remuneration under the former system, and such fees are now paid into the treasury.

Public Debt.

5. A diminution of the debt due by the colony was effected; another instalment of the loan from Her Majesty's Treasury was punctually liquidated; local claims were discharged to the extent of 650*l*; and the financial returns speak in favour of the resources of the colony.

Public Works.

6. A more than usual expenditure was incurred in repairs of public buildings. For some years past the only disbursements appearing under the head of Works have been on account of the usual continuous repair of roads in the several districts of the island. During the past year the sum of 1,200*l.* has been applied in the attempt to make the government house habitable. Long neglect had rendered necessary repairs so extensive, and the site is so bad, that greater prudence would have been evinced in the erection of another edifice in a preferable situation. The Assembly, however, did not acquiesce in that view; and the alternative was adopted of repairing the present house, which, however, can never be converted into a commodious or fit residence for the governor.

Legislation.

7. Among the measures adopted by the legislature during the past year are some of importance and good effect in their operation.

8. The establishment of a fire brigade, which for some years had been proposed, has been effected by an Act, under which a competent corps has been formed.

9. An Act was passed for registering births and deaths, which will be of benefit in ascertaining the existence and causes of unhealthiness among the population, in order that such information may be turned to practical account for the prevention of disease.

10. In my Despatch No. 42 of the 26th July last, transmitting the Act for establishing the Holberton Hospital, I adverted to the previous absence of all hospital accommodation. The establishment of this benevolent institution in an effective state is creditable to the colony. The progress of the institution is most gratifying; and the quarterly reports afford abundant evidence of the blessings it confers upon the poorer inhabitants of the colony and the helpless stranger.

11. A Census Act was also passed, under which much information was derived.

Population.

12. The table of population has been prepared from the statistics collected under the authority of the Census Act. I append a copy of the report of the colonial secretary, who is ex officio registrar general, and of the tabulated statements accompanying it. As is observed by him, there had been reason to doubt the accuracy of the previous enumeration of 1851, effected through the agency of the police; and as the Registration Act promised such a record of the increase or diminution of the population as to afford reliable data, it was deemed advisable to obtain a new census as a basis and starting point for the future.

13. The measure was in fact intended to be simultaneous with the initiation of a system of registry, although from accidental circumstances the Act for this latter purpose was first passed.

14. No inconvenience will result, however, from the delay of the Census Act, as the Registration Act being in operation, the future increase or decrease can be estimated from the day on which the census was taken.

15. The result of this investigation appears to confirm the fears entertained that the population is on the decrease; and, if confidence may be placed in the experience of the short time during which the registration has been in action, the table of births and deaths for the period from the 1st August to the 31st December included in the registrar's report confirms this deduction. This subject has recently received much consideration; and at this time a joint committee of the Council and Assembly is charged with an inquiry into the more immediate causes of the increase of mortality, and present excess of deaths over births, shown by the report of the registrar general. At my suggestion, a bill has been introduced, and is now before the Assembly, having for its object the medical relief of certain classes of the population, and supplying the services of professional men to districts almost wholly destitute of such aid.

Miscellaneous Numerical Returns.

16. The only circumstance presented by this table worthy of notice is found in the continued augmentation of the deposits in the savings' bank. As already observed, they exceeded the amount of 1855 by 889*l.* 1*s.* 11¾*d.*; and the sum for which the public chest was liable on the 31st December amounted to 4,658*l.* This fact is the more remarkable, as it was imagined that the issue of the treasury debentures for small sums bearing a higher interest than that paid by the savings' bank to depositors would have had the effect of withdrawing lodgments for the purpose of investment in those securities. The facility which is afforded by the savings' bank for procuring at short notice for immediate use

any portion of a sum lodged, without removing the whole amount, and the ease with which small additions of broken amounts can be made to their stock by those who avail themselves of the institution, appear to have protected it from any injurious operation of the debentures, which were taken up by parties desiring to dispose of larger sums of money than are allowed by the rules of the savings' bank to be there deposited.

17. The number of depositors returned is less than in the preceding year, but the diminution is not real. In 1855 the names of all persons were included who had accounts with the bank during the year. On the present occasion, only those are comprehended in the return who had deposits at the end of the year. Six friendly societies have accounts with the bank, but are only set down as individual depositors.

Education.

18. The table of schools exhibits little variation in the number of day pupils, but a considerable increase among those attending Sunday schools. The following is a summary of the returns for the year:—

Denomination.	Day Schools.			Sunday Schools.		
	No. of Schools.	Male Scholars.	Female Scholars.	No. of Schools.	Male Scholars.	Female Scholars.
Church of England -	17	574	502	7	210	256
Moravian - - -	10	908	785	16	1,526	1,773
Wesleyan - -	5	308	207	10	669	935
Presbyterian - -	2	53	37	—	—	—
Mico Institution -	3	124	47	—	—	—
Totals -	37	1,967	1,578	33	2,405	2,964

	1855.	1856.
Total Day Scholars - -	3,561	3,545
Total Sunday Scholars - -	3,899	5,369

19. The colony is still without any provision from the local government for the education of the youthful population. A bill was passed by the Assembly making an annual grant of 1,000*l.* for this purpose, but some of its provisions were considered objectionable by the Council, by whom modifications were proposed, and the Assembly declined to proceed with the measure, upon the ground of privilege. It is understood that another bill will be introduced on the subject.

Imports and Exports.

20. The change in the forms of return required by the Board of Trade, and directed in your circular despatch of 28th August last, renders it difficult to institute a just comparison between the tables now under consideration and those furnished for 1855. It is, however, obvious from the increased productiveness of the tariff duties, amounting to nearly 20 per cent. on the sum collected in 1855, that the imports of the colony have been largely augmented in comparison with that year. For the future, the improved forms adopted will afford greater facility for comparison than has heretofore been obtained; but the preparation of them for the first time, from materials not originally collected with that object, has proved to be laborious; and on this occasion the forms cannot be considered free from imperfection.

21. The exports of the island for the year 1856, shown in the following statement, have not equalled those of the two preceding years, although the crop is not considered to have fallen below a fair average :—

Countries to which Exported.	Sugar.			Molasses.		Rum.		
	H.	T.	B.	P.	B.	P.	H.	B.
United Kingdom - -	11,832	921½	3,900	4,903	41	1,508	80	21
British North America - -	242	9	190	600	3	294	30	—
United States - - -	952	130	1,305	926	2	44	3	—
British West Indies - -	68	—	205	25	2	2	—	—
Madeira - - - - -	—	—	31	—	—	—	—	—
Foreign West Indies :								
Colonies belonging to Holland -	9	—	53	17	—	76	—	—
„ Denmark -	10	—	11	6	—	—	2	—
„ Sweden -	—	—	21	—	—	3	—	2
„ Spain -	—	—	—	—	—	2	4	—
Totals - -	13,113	1,060½	5,716	6,477	48	1,929	119	23

Gaols and Prisoners.

22. It is satisfactory to note a great reduction on the number of total commitments for the year, which are 745 as against 1,003 in 1855.

23. The insufficiency of the present gaol accommodation to afford the means of proper classification and separation of the prisoners has been brought to the notice of the legislative bodies. And in compliance with a request conveyed in a joint resolution of the two houses, I have obtained the services of a competent person, Mr. Hart, the superintendent of the gaol at Trinidad, who has prepared the plans and specifications for the proposed alterations, estimated to cost about 900*l*. There can be little question that hitherto the want of space and accommodation has prevented prison regulations being enforced with sufficient stringency to render incarceration, even with what is termed hard labour, an efficient restraint upon crime.

Conclusion.

24. It has been found by experience that a moderate duty on imports does not affect the retail price to the labourer, while the revenue thence derived has diminished the financial difficulties of the colony; and such duty being in operation throughout the year, while it has not been felt burdensome by any class, has prevented any public engagement being in arrear.

25. With the increase of trade there has been a corresponding rise in the value of landed property; and the planter pursues his vocation with the intelligence and energy characteristic of his class.

I have, &c.

(Signed) KER B. HAMILTON.

The Right Hon. H. Labouchere, M.P.,
&c. &c. &c.

ANTIGUA.

Enclosure in No. 17.

Encl. in No. 17.

The REPORT of the REGISTRAR GENERAL of BIRTHS and DEATHS on the CENSUS taken NOVEMBER 17, 1856, together with TABULATED STATEMENTS.

CONTENTS.

REPORT OF REGISTRAR GENERAL.

TABLE 1.—Ages of Population, classified in Decennaries.

„ 2.—Occupations of Population.

„ 3.—Place of Birth and Complexion of ditto.

„ 4.—Religious Denomination of ditto.

„ 5.—Population, and Houses and Tenure of Houses of the various Villages in the several Parishes.

„ 6.—Population and Houses of the various Estates in the several Parishes.

„ 7.—Population of the several Parishes, according to Censuses of 1844, of 1851, and of 1856.

„ 8.—Abstract of Births and Deaths for Period from 1st August to 31st December 1856.

„ 9.—Classification of Causes of Death for same Period.

„ 10.—Returns of Baptisms and Burials for Year 1856.

Office of Registrar General of Births and Deaths,
February 6, 1857.

Sir,

No. 1. Ages.
No. 2. Occupations.
No. 3. Places of Birth & Complexion.
No. 4. Religious Denomination.
No. 5. Population of Towns and Villages.
No. 6. Ditto of Estates.
No. 7. Comparative Statement of Census of 1844 and 1856.
No. 8. Abstract of Births and Deaths.
No. 9. Classification of Causes of Death.
No. 10. Returns of Baptisms and Burials.

I HAVE the honour to lay before your Excellency, for communication to the houses of legislature, my report, with tabulated statements, of the census taken on the 17th November last.

2. The Act for registering Births and Deaths requires that I shall yearly furnish the Governor and Council and Assembly with a general abstract of the number of births and deaths registered during the previous year. As it will for the future be desirable that such reports should be for the annual period represented by the calendar year, I take this opportunity of submitting abstracts for the period from the 1st August to 31st December last, during which the Act has been in operation, with a return showing the number of baptisms and burials for the same time, as well as during the earlier portion of the year 1856. The information afforded by these latter tables is of interest and importance cognate with that obtained from the census returns, and the whole may be considered with propriety as forming one subject.

3. The returns of the present census show a total of 35,408, being a decrease, as against that of 1844, of 770 on the total population; and, as compared with the result of the enumeration of 1851, under the direction of the superintendent of police, exhibiting so great a difference as 1,728 less than the total amount of 37,136 shown on that occasion. So important a discrepancy with the latest statistics collected under the superintendence of a zealous and active officer would have led me to believe that much error must be present in the statements now submitted, were it not that the conclusions which they offer are supported by circumstances at variance with the supposition that the population had increased between the years 1844 and 1851. Further, it must be recollected that the census of the latter year was taken by the police force with such unremunerated assistance as they were able to obtain, and that in consequence the number of persons engaged in the service was inadequate to its completion in one day. Probably for the most part the aid which the police received wanted the stimulus of reward to insure care and accuracy. The circumstance of the impossibility of effecting the enumeration for the whole island on the same day was, however, alone sufficient to cast doubt on the correctness of the returns; and I believe that others share with me the opinion that in investigating the results, and judging of the accuracy of the present census, it will be preferable to accept the tables of 1844 as affording the most reliable basis for comparison.

Table No. 7.

4. We find on reference to them that there is a reduction of 770 on the total population, notwithstanding that allowance must be made for the number of 1,030 natives of Madeira and the Cape de Verde Islands who have immigrated since that date. The ordinary fluctuations in the population of the middle and upper classes of society may be held to balance themselves on a series of years. Of the total diminution of 1,800 in the eighteen years which have elapsed, a very considerable portion, it is impossible to say

how much, may be accounted for by the departure of the numerous persons who are congregated by the presence of a garrison, almost all of whom probably left the island on the removal of Her Majesty's troops in 1854. The remaining deficit is perhaps scarcely so large as might have been expected, if facts which have been recently displayed by the working of the Act for registering births and deaths had formerly been more generally known.

4. In the absence of any record of births and deaths, the only source of information as to the increase or decrease of the population was the annual return of baptisms and burials obtained from the clergy for the Blue Book. These returns are given in the margin for the last thirteen years. It will be observed, that although the number of burials in 1856 is largely in excess of those in 1844, yet that the total number of baptisms and burials for the whole period since the last census would seem to indicate some increase of the population. Upon this circumstance has been founded the opinion of those who are willing to believe that there has been no diminution. The general impression of those whom professional occupations or other causes have brought into close intercourse with the classes constituting the bulk of the people has inclined, however, from their own experience, to regard such conclusions as fallacious. And, unfortunately, information which is beyond dispute, furnished by the Act for registering births and deaths, only too strongly corroborates the unpleasant conviction that there has existed for some time a serious tendency to decrease in the population.

Years.	Bms.	Bls.
1844—	989—	760
1845—	1,002—	964
1846—	967—	984
1847—	1,081—	950
1848—	1.170—	1,027
1849—	1,199—	1,008
1850—	1,157—	930
1851—	1,092—	902
1852—	1,022—	1,090
1853—	1,139—	1,045
1854—	971—	1,109
1855—	1,060—	872
1856—	1,038—	1,173
	13,887—	12,814

6. On applying to the clergy at the end of last year for the information usually furnished by them, I requested that the number of baptisms and burials for the time during which the Registration Act has been in force might be distinguished from that for the earlier part of the year; I have thus been enabled to collate the number of deaths shown by the general registry with the number of interments for the same period by the several ecclesiastical establishments in the colony. I find that whereas 689 deaths are registered, only 572 burials appear to have been performed by the clergy. The inevitable inference is caused that 117 interments have taken place without any religious offices, and the discrepancy is greatly more than can be accounted for by the supposition that it may be composed of deaths of very young children before the age at which baptism is usually administered. Placing in juxta-position the number of births registered (413) and of baptisms for the same period (342), the difference apparent is 71. Admitting that this number might be wholly made up of infants still-born, or dying at very early age before baptism, and therefore buried without funeral service, there yet remains the number of 46 deaths in a period of five months unaccounted for by Christian burial.

Tables 8 and 10.

7. The conclusions at which I arrive from the consideration of these facts, and which must, I fear, be regarded as unavoidable, are—first, that any estimates as to the state of the population, formed solely on the ecclesiastical returns of baptisms and burials, will be fallacious; secondly, that in view of the statements which I submit, it is obvious that interments take place after baptism without the funeral service; and thirdly, that as we are not aware of any cause for believing the rate of mortality as compared to births during the past five months to be peculiarly exceptional, we are driven to the admission that a very important drain upon the population has been for some while in existence, as shown by an excess of 276 deaths over the births for the period during which the Registration Act has been in force.

Table No. 8.

8. It is obvious that much less than half such a proportionate excess as has been exhibited during the last five months will be more than sufficient to have caused the whole diminution of the population since 1844, even without reference to those persons who have probably departed with the garrison, and from other causes.

9. Attentive examination of all these details, together with my knowledge of the pains and labour which have been bestowed by my coadjutors in this service upon the preparation of the materials for the tables which I have the honour to submit, give me every reason to believe that they are in the main as correct as it is generally possible to make statistics of this description. That they are altogether free from the possibility of admixture of error is not pretended. But the local knowledge common to small communities bestowed in many cases the means of detecting and correcting accidental inaccuracy and supplying omissions. Care has been accordingly taken to revise the returns of the enumerators where, through inadvertence, the information originally supplied has been insufficient. I therefore believe that the present census presents, at least, a very close approximation to the actual facts intended to be ascertained. It may appear almost invidious to distinguish the returns from any one district as more worthy of mention than others, when all the registrars have evinced so much desire to furnish their returns in as perfect a form as possible; but I am led to remark upon the extreme beauty and completeness of the forms received from Mr. Justice Black, the registrar for the parish of St. Paul. I am assured, and believe from my own examination, that they may be entirely depended upon. Yet it will be observed that they exhibit in that parish alone a difference of 764 persons from the number shown by the returns of 1851; this variance being probably composed chiefly of persons who followed the fortunes of the military forces formerly stationed in the colony.

Table No. 7.

10. Not many remarks are necessary on the mode of arrangement which has been adopted for the tabular statements annexed. It is hoped they are sufficiently clear to explain themselves. In many particulars I am indebted to the very excellent forms used

ANTIGUA.

in the last census taken in the neighbouring island of St. Kitts; but I have found it advisable to modify to some extent those of which I have availed myself, and to omit others as unnecessary and repetitional.

Table No. 1.

11. The classification of ages is in decennial in preference to quinquennial periods, because in most instances the bulk of the population are unable to afford precise information as to their ages, and the enumerator has to arrive at a decision upon his own judgment. It is more possible to form a tolerably accurate conclusion as to age from personal appearance between periods of ten years than within those of five.

Table No. 8.

11. A reference to the Abstract of Births and Deaths registered since the 1st August presents the lamentable fact that of a total mortality of 688, 188 are deaths of infants under one year of age, and of these that 54 were still-born. Deducting the number of still-born children, we have yet to regard with serious consideration the disclosure that so large a number as 134 children in the short period of five months have died while still in their mother's arms. At this rate the amount for twelve months would be 322; being 21 per cent., or rather more than one-fifth of the total deaths registered, without including still-born children.

12. Such a state of things demands all the careful investigation that legislative power with scientific aid can accomplish. The destitute condition of the more eastern portions of the island and other country districts in respect of medical assistance has been brought to the notice of the houses of legislature by your Excellency. It was understood that those bodies had under consideration means for endeavouring to arrest, so far as human efforts can avail, the portentous amount of mortality too plainly prevalent. But if importance is attached to the weight of evidence which is brought by the Registration Act, to corroborate what before it was passed was only a well-grounded belief, it would be well that there should be no delay in putting into action any scheme which may be deemed feasible for this end.

13. A correlative subject, of by no means minor importance, is the necessity for ascertaining the capability of the women practising as midwives among the bulk of the population, before they are allowed to act in the office they undertake. The large number of still-born children, and the great proportion which the detailed returns show of children perishing within a very few days, often only hours, after birth, should be enough to insure attention on this point. It is almost beyond a doubt that a fearful loss of life is the result of ignorant, and, in many cases, culpable unfitness for their duties on the part of the midwives.

14. In conclusion, I have only further to state, that the expenses of the census, including the printing of fifty copies of the tables and report, have amounted to 155*l.* 7*s.*, as shown by the schedule subjoined. The enumerators were advisedly compensated at a rate for every hundred persons, in order to stimulate the desire to obtain as full returns as possible; any probability of false statements being controlled by the supervision of the registrars, and requiring the names or description of all parties returned.

I have, &c.,
A. MUSGRAVE,
Registrar-General.

His Excellency Governor Hamilton,
&c. &c. &c.

EXPENSES OF CENSUS.

Fees to Enumerators.

Parish:				£	s.	d.
SAINT PETER.	Population.	Villages - - -	1759	14	5	0
		Estates - -	2058			
SAINT MARY.	Ditto.	Villages - - -	2797	17	10	0
		Estates - -	1340			
SAINT PHILIP.	Ditto.	Villages - - -	2578	16	10	0
		Estates - -	1381			
SAINT PAUL.	Ditto.	Villages - - -	3694	20	5	0
		Estates - -	696			
SAINT GEORGE.	Ditto.	Villages - - -	2200	15	10	0
		Estates - -	1608			
SAINT JOHN.	Ditto.	Town - - -	8515	48	15	0
		Villages - -	4013			
		Estates - -	2769			
				132	15	0
Expenses of printing Report, Tables, Enumeration Forms, &c. &c. - - - -				*22	12	0
				£155	7	0

* Of this amount 13*l.* still remains unpaid.

No. 1.—Ages of the Total Population, classified in Decennaries.

Parishes.	MALES.							FEMALES.							Total Males.	Total Females.	Total Population.
	Under 10 Years	Between 10 and 20.	Between 20 and 30.	Between 30 and 40.	Between 40 and 50.	Between 50 and 60.	Above 60 Years.	Under 10 Years.	Between 10 and 20.	Between 20 and 30.	Between 30 and 40.	Between 40 and 50.	Between 50 and 60.	Above 60 Years.			
Saint John : City	788	613	738	609	381	240	104	965	878	1,143	857	598	372	229	3,473	5,042	8,515
Estates and Villages	857	672	576	557	391	205	124	744	612	732	548	377	233	154	3,382	3,400	6,782
	1,645	1,285	1,314	1,166	772	445	228	1,709	1,490	1,875	1,405	975	605	383	6,855	8,442	15,297
Saint Mary	540	426	293	275	217	147	115	549	360	368	306	216	163	162	2,013	2,124	4,137
Saint Paul	530	377	292	288	261	160	86	525	421	479	341	249	197	184	1,994	2,396	4,390
Saint Philip	520	364	363	291	177	127	84	483	365	413	283	202	142	145	1,926	2,033	3,959
Saint Peter	442	342	396	327	202	122	54	401	297	408	328	243	145	110	1,885	1,932	3,817
Saint George	523	363	346	289	198	139	93	444	333	381	275	197	129	98	1,951	1,857	3,808
Total	4,200	3,157	3,004	2,636	1,827	1,140	660	4,111	3,266	3,924	2,938	2,082	1,381	1,082	16,624	18,784	35,408

No. 2.—Occupations of the Total Population.

Parish.	Clerical, Professional, and Official.	Commercial.	Agriculture.		Domestic Servants.	TRADES, &c.																														Domestic Duties unspecified, and unemployed.	Total Population.
			Planters.	Labourers.		Auctioneers.	Bakers.	Butchers.	Blacksmiths.	Cabinet Makers and Carpenters.	Coopers.	Coppersmiths.	Dispensers.	Druggists.	Engineers.	Fishermen.	Farriers.	Goldsmiths.	Hucksters.	Laundresses.	Midwives.	Mariners.	Masons.	Musicians.	Pedlars.	Printers.	Pilots.	Plumbers.	Police Force.	Saddlers.	Saitmakers.	Shipwrights.	Shoemakers.	Seamstresses.	Tailors.	Teachers & Students.	Wheelwrights.	Watermen.	Watchmakers.		
Saint John	25	257	111	4,586	850	4	123	56	78	432	142	14	7	2	1	131	7	13	322	757	15	158	125	6	—	22	–	–	35	28	1	—	92	1,349	130	79	49	146	5	5,139	15,297
Saint Mary	12	2	25	2,077	68	–	6	2	20	80	22	—	–	–	–	31	1	—	25	68	4	8	42	–	—	—	1	–	3	3	–	3	2	58	16	31	4	1	–	1,522	4,137
Saint Paul	15	35	32	1,728	170	–	8	11	10	115	28	1	–	–	1	19	3	—	75	215	2	9	47	–	—	—	2	–	—	4	–	5	15	152	27	3	2	—	–	1,656	4,390
Saint Philip	5	14	56	2,202	116	–	11	3	25	87	32	—	–	–	–	25	1	—	—	30	2	10	62	–	20	—	—	1	7	3	–	—	8	85	18	9	—	—	–	1,127	3,959
Saint Peter	5	32	53	2,012	152	–	14	3	13	74	51	—	1	–	–	17	3	—	7	69	5	—	37	–	—	—	–	–	4	7	–	—	11	70	15	6	—	—	–	1,156	3,817
Saint George	2	—	36	2,392	35	–	—	3	19	88	46	—	–	–	1	25	1	—	16	65	2	53	—	–	19	—	–	–	4	4	–	10	—	49	11	4	—	—	–	923	3,808
Total	64	340	313	14,997	1,391	4	162	78	165	876	321	15	8	2	3	248	16	13	445	1,204	30	238	313	6	39	22	3	1	53	49	1	18	128	1,763	217	132	55	147	5	11,523	35,408

No. 3.—Place of Birth, and Complexion, of the Total Population.

Name of Parish.	Place of Birth.						Complexion.			Total.
	Antigua.	Other W. I. Colonies.	Great Britain and Ireland.	Cape de Verde Isles.	Madeira.	Elsewhere.	Black.	White.	Coloured.	
Saint John -	13,948	590	203	120	383	53	10,004	1,191	4,102	15,297
Saint Mary -	3,985	49	19	—	67	17	3,574	138	425	4,137
Saint Paul -	4,167	72	32	1	41	77	3,438	138	814	4,390
Saint Philip -	3,764	48	12	13	117	5	3,258	252	449	3,959
Saint Peter -	3,578	35	27	42	126	9	2,948	277	592	3,817
Saint George -	3,631	27	29	7	113	1	3,300	176	332	3,808
Total -	33,073	821	322	183	847	162	26,522	2,172	6,714	35,408

No. 4.—Religious Denomination of the Total Population.

Name of Parish.	Religious Denomination.						Total.
	Church of England.	Church of Scotland.	Moravian.	Wesleyan.	Roman Catholic.	Not Specified.	
Saint John -	6,835	226	4,776	3,056	304	100	15,297
Saint Mary -	1,052	2	2,795	258	30	—	4,137
Saint Paul -	1,283	3	1,906	1,155	43	—	4,390
Saint Philip -	1,586	0	804	1,468	101	—	3,959
Saint Peter -	2,432	4	171	1,073	137	—	3,817
Saint George -	2,401	11	1,082	204	110	—	3,808
Total -	15,589	246	11,534	7,214	725	100	35,408

No. 5.—Population and Houses of the Towns and Villages in the several Parishes.

Saint John.	Population.			Tenure.			Houses.	
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Freehold.	Leasehold.	Tenancy at Will.	Occupied.	Unoccupied.
City of Saint John -	3,474	5,041	8,515	264	150	365	779	—
All Saints - -	133	150	283	50	10	—	60	—
Saint James - -	199	190	389	49	13	9	71	—
Hamiltons - -	108	94	202	44	—	—	44	—
Aberdeen - -	26	20	46	7	1	—	8	—
Wilcox - -	47	61	108	14	1	—	15	—
Laws - - -	11	11	22	2	6	—	8	—
Williams' Farm -	28	18	46	5	1	—	6	—
Bendals - -	20	24	44	9	—	—	9	—
Bush Town - -	19	14	33	6	—	—	6	—
Ferris' Farm - -	5	4	9	1	1	—	2	—
Fort James - -	15	10	25	—	—	1	1	—
Alleynes - -	151	128	279	35	11	—	46	—
Hainings - -	47	55	102	24	—	—	24	—
Potters - - -	89	90	179	30	8	—	38	—
Grays - - -	167	214	381	38	13	—	51	—
Tomlinsons - -	83	89	172	52	11	—	63	—
Cooks - -	19	17	36	3	4	—	7	—
Galley Bay - -	190	177	367	46	6	—	52	—
Grays' Hill - -	195	200	395	48	18	—	66	—
Side Hill & Green Bay	406	460	866	115	25	1	141	—
Goat Hill - -	8	2	10	—	—	1	1	—
Gracefield - -	2	5	7	1	—	—	1	—
Olivers' - - -	5	7	12	2	—	—	2	—
Total - -	5,447	7,081	12,528	845	279	377	1,501	—

No. 5—*continued.*—Population and Houses of the Towns and Villages, &c.

	Population.			Tenure.			Houses.	
Saint Mary.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Freehold.	Leasehold.	Tenancy at Will.	Occupied.	Unoccupied.
Crabb Hill	60	73	133	23	—	—	23	—
Johnson's Point	80	82	162	29	1	2	32	—
Dalzel's	4	2	6	1	—	1	2	—
Urlin's	54	50	104	23	3	5	31	—
Saint Mary's Glebe	7	3	10	—	—	4	4	—
Bailey Hill	10	9	19	2	—	1	3	—
Old Road Town	47	49	96	17	7	1	25	—
Grace Bay	19	31	50	8	—	1	9	—
Sea Valley	16	28	44	7	2	—	9	—
Fairfield	49	65	114	14	—	4	18	—
Green Hill (1)	35	38	73	12	—	1	13	—
Kingston	36	47	83	11	6	—	17	—
Fisher's	9	7	16	3	1	1	5	—
River	51	53	104	10	15	—	25	—
Nanton's	35	50	85	5	16	—	21	—
Cedar Grove	18	26	44	6	—	5	11	—
John Hughes	60	68	128	5	20	8	33	—
Bishop's	59	57	116	22	6	3	31	—
Green Hill (11)	107	112	219	8	50	—	58	—
Jenning's	59	58	117	13	7	5	25	—
Thompson's	95	94	189	36	6	—	42	—
Darby's	66	59	125	—	36	—	36	—
McGregor's	12	8	20	2	—	3	5	—
Dunning's	25	20	45	10	1	—	11	—
Jenning's (top)	21	21	42	8	—	—	8	—
Gillards	27	33	60	14	—	—	14	—
Bolans	238	270	508	63	45	15	123	—
Dunning's (bottom)	10	12	22	3	—	1	4	—
Roses	23	15	38	—	7	1	8	—
Tottenham	10	15	25	—	3	1	4	—
Total	1,342	1,455	2,797	355	232	63	650	—
Saint Philip.								
The Rectory	6	10	16	1	—	—	1	—
Farrs Hill Village	431	482	913	232	—	26	258	—
Seatons	372	419	791	173	—	33	206	—
Newfield	197	206	403	65	—	8	73	—
Willoughby Bay	41	46	87	12	—	5	17	—
Wilkies	108	141	249	44	—	3	47	—
Mayers	21	19	40	8	—	—	8	—
Salters	23	24	47	10	—	1	11	—
McKay Lands	3	2	5	—	—	1	1	—
Sandy Ground	2	1	3	1	—	—	1	—
Brooks Lands	4	7	11	1	—	—	1	—
Grays Hill	5	8	13	3	—	1	4	—
Total	1,213	1,365	2,578	550	—	78	628	—
Saint George.								
Winthropes Village	163	146	309	68	3	—	71	—
Barnes Hill	84	110	194	37	16	—	53	—
Saint Marks	178	187	365	84	11	3	98	—
Osborns Farm	103	110	213	50	4	—	54	—
Sea View Farm	583	536	1,119	275	9	—	284	—
Total	1,111	1,089	2,200	514	43	3	560	—

No. 5—*continued.*—Population and Houses of the Towns and Villages, &c.

Saint Paul.	Population.			Tenure.			Houses.	
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Freehold.	Leasehold.	Tenancy at Will.	Occupied.	Unoccupied.
English Harbour -	369	617	986	73	15	165	253	20
Falmouth - -	84	127	211	33	5	5	43	—
The Ridge - -	32	30	62	—	—	13	13	16
Ffryes - -	56	66	122	21	—	7	28	—
Victoria - -	38	47	85	16	—	2	18	—
Bethesda - -	138	161	299	57	11	—	68	—
Grace Hill - -	65	86	151	24	2	2	28	—
Liberta - -	389	399	788	150	7	—	157	6
Buckshorns - -	10	9	19	4	—	—	4	—
Edwards - -	29	34	63	16	—	—	16	—
Sweets - -	280	292	572	137	1	3	136	10
Jenny Bush - -	81	90	171	—	53	—	53	—
Spring Hill - -	58	58	116	21	2	1	24	—
Bailey Hill - -	15	16	31	7	1	—	8	—
Ding-a-ding-nook -	7	11	18	3	—	—	3	—
Total - -	1,651	2,043	3,694	562	97	198	852	52
Saint Peter.								
Parham - -	227	273	500	81	34	—	115	6
Glebe - -	56	67	123	—	36	—	36	—
Freemans - -	255	282	537	120	17	11	148	24
Pares - - -	54	85	139	35	3	5	43	7
Osborns - -	47	54	101	28	—	—	28	2
Parham Lodge - -	90	104	194	—	50	4	54	—
Parham Hill - -	41	42	83	—	11	6	17	—
Vernons - -	41	41	82	—	6	17	23	3
Total - -	811	948	1,759	264	157	43	464	42

No. 6.—Population and Houses of the Estates in the several Parishes.

Saint John.	Population.			Houses.	
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Occupied.	Unoccupied.
Thibou's - - - - -	21	26	47	2	13
Wood - - - - -	31	28	59	25	2
Drews Hill - - - -	27	20	47	10	—
Skerrets and Clare Hall - -	64	61	125	42	2
Dunbars - - - - -	30	37	67	25	—
Ottos - - - -	44	50	94	32	6
Langfords - - - - -	106	85	191	47	4
Crosbies - - - -	36	26	62	30	1
Hodges Bay - - - -	34	33	67	15	—
Briggins - - - -	42	48	90	20	—
Thibou Jarvis - - - -	122	117	239	65	4
Mount Pleasant - - -	35	27	62	14	3
Wetherills - - - - -	67	77	144	33	3
Cedar Valley - - -	70	62	132	45	1
Will Blizards - - - -	26	21	47	17	—
Tomlinsons - - - -	21	23	44	10	2
Golden Grove - - - -	34	30	64	21	1
Marble Hill - - - -	59	51	110	27	2
Sir Geo. Thomas, Upper - - -	45	29	74	24	3
Sir Geo. Thomas, Lower - -	24	27	51	15	—
Hawkes Bill - - - -	9	6	15	1	—
Brecknock - - - - -	16	20	36	10	2
Turnbull's - - - - -	10	17	27	12	1
Belvidere - - - -	5	1	6	2	1
Buckley's - - - - -	2	—	2	1	2
Saint Clare - - - -	4	5	9	8	—
Mount View - - - -	4	3	7	1	—
Cookes - - - - -	11	10	21	6	—
Friars Hall - - - -	45	33	78	24	4
Galley Bay - - - -	19	12	31	9	7

No. 6—*continued.*—Population and Houses of the Estates in the several Parishes.

	Population.			Houses.	
Saint John—*continued.*	Males.	Females.	Total.	Occupied.	Unoccupied.
Potters	2	6	8	1	3
Villa	15	16	31	19	1
Belmont	23	26	49	14	5
Herberts	23	23	46	13	2
George Byams	5	4	9	2	4
Rose Hill	3	3	6	4	1
Hill House	8	6	14	2	—
Bendals	20	36	56	20	—
McKinnons	22	15	37	20	—
Harts and Royals	58	59	117	36	1
Cassada Garden	43	39	82	30	5
Adneys	18	20	38	1	—
Gambles	24	30	54	13	3
Union	15	21	36	2	—
Yapton	2	4	6	8	1
Denfield	8	7	15	1	—
Bath Lodge	32	33	65	24	1
Belle Vue	21	26	47	14	—
Renfrew	3	—	3	1	—
Body Ponds	1	1	2	1	—
Totals	1,409	1,360	2,769	821	91
Saint Peter.					
Parham Hill	22	30	52	17	—
Parham Lodge	30	36	66	26	—
Parham New Work	39	37	76	24	1
Cedar Hill, Upper	47	51	98	40	4
Cedar Hill, Lower	68	66	134	33	5
Upper Freemans	21	13	34	7	—
Lower Freemans	9	8	17	7	—
Jonas'	12	11	23	3	—
Sandersons	51	47	98	23	2
Big Duers	25	30	55	19	—
Little Duers	31	29	60	21	—
Yeamans	18	8	26	8	—
Pares and Cochranes	36	32	68	28	4
Diamond	35	25	60	20	—
Bettys Hope	96	93	189	40	5
Bettys Hope Garden	60	53	113	28	4
Parrys	83	71	154	67	8
Cotton Old Work	52	50	102	27	4
Cotton New Work	60	62	122	45	—
Gilberts	33	42	75	18	1
Hawses'	21	22	43	12	—
Mercers Creek	41	36	77	22	—
Cocoanut Nut Hall	50	34	84	33	—
Vernons	40	25	65	24	4
Crabbs	87	71	158	33	2
Narrows and Guano Island	7	2	9	3	—
Totals	1,074	984	2,058	628	44
Saint George.					
Mount Lucie	49	48	97	34	3
Donovans	70	58	128	45	—
North Sound	18	27	45	17	—
Carlisles	82	96	178	51	2
Millars	71	75	146	50	2
Barnacle Point	3	3	6	3	—
Fitches Creek	98	95	193	74	2
Weirs	30	30	60	16	6
High Point	88	84	172	149	—
Date Hill	19	21	40	12	—
Giles Blizards	63	73	136	50	—
Judge Blizards	88	74	162	50	1
Gravenors	29	20	49	17	—
Nibbs	39	48	87	25	—
Winthropes	16	22	38	14	14
Paynters	16	17	33	10	4
Gunthorpes	26	22	48	9	—
Totals	795	813	1,608	526	34

No. 6—*continued.*—Population and Houses of the Estates in the several Parishes.

	Population.			Houses.	
St. Philip.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Occupied.	Unoccupied.
Rooms	13	21	34	9	1
Parson Maule	2	6	8	2	1
Collins	25	19	44	9	2
Glanvilles	14	8	22	7	—
Grants	11	6	17	5	1
Sion Hill	17	28	45	17	3
Mayers	9	4	13	2	—
Retreat	7	5	12	6	3
Comfort Hall	9	11	20	7	1
Grays	3	3	6	2	—
Wickhams	11	10	21	2	1
Elliotts	9	2	11	2	6
Long Lane	57	40	97	33	4
Gaynors	27	18	45	9	1
Elmes	17	15	32	11	1
Gobles	6	13	19	7	4
Lower Walronds	9	16	25	12	—
Lyons	56	67	123	39	3
Lavingtons	38	35	73	18	3
Ffrys	37	40	77	19	—
Montpellier	11	5	16	7	1
Archbolds and Browns	35	31	66	12	4
Skerrets	57	49	106	28	1
Colebrooks	22	18	40	9	1
Upper Walronds	11	16	27	8	4
Harmans	55	44	99	23	—
Mannings	4	2	6	2	—
Hope	19	26	45	11	1
Watsons	34	23	57	27	2
Lynches	65	70	135	36	2
Sheriffs	17	13	30	7	—
Mangrove	6	4	10	1	1
Totals	713	668	1,381	389	52
Saint Mary.					
Ffryes	85	82	167	33	—
Orange Valley	13	10	23	5	—
Picarts	20	24	44	7	—
Cades Bay	107	124	231	66	—
Brooks	9	9	18	8	—
Tramontania	10	—	10	1	—
Claremont	14	13	27	3	—
Russels	9	8	17	5	—
Sage Hill	8	15	23	3	—
Sawcolts	4	9	13	2	—
Tom Moores	2	7	9	2	—
Green Castle	53	58	111	22	—
Rigbys	10	8	18	5	—
Monteros	17	27	44	9	—
Smiths	18	17	35	11	—
Seaforths	20	19	39	12	—
Hermitage	33	29	62	15	—
Blubber Valley	43	42	85	23	—
Dunnings	11	13	24	5	—
Jolly Hill	41	28	69	16	—
Willocks	2	4	6	1	—
Dark Valley	28	20	48	11	—
Yorks	76	66	142	34	—
New Division	37	38	75	15	—
Totals	670	670	1,340	314	—

No. 6—*continued.*—Population and Houses of the Estates in the several Parishes.

Saint Paul.	Population.			Houses.	
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Occupied.	Unoccupied.
Blakes	43	38	81	21	3
Bodkins	11	7	18	5	1
Burkes	49	38	87	20	1
Cochranes	11	8	19	6	—
Delaps	39	44	83	22	—
Folly	3	3	6	1	—
Laroaches	30	25	55	17	—
Lucas	17	17	34	12	—
Mathews	15	22	37	15	4
Morris Loobys	40	57	97	28	2
Pattersons	11	8	19	7	—
Richmonds	12	18	30	7	—
Thomas	9	13	22	4	1
Tyrrells	13	15	28	6	—
Willis'	33	30	63	20	—
Uncultivated Estates	—	—	—	—	—
Rendezvous Bay	5	5	10	1	—
Buckshorns	2	5	7	1	—
Barters Dimsdale	—	—	—	—	2
Totals	343	353	696	193	14

No. 7.—Population in the several Parishes, according to the Census of 1844, of 1851, and of 1856.

Name of Parish.	Population, Census 1844.			Population, Census 1851.			Population, Census 1856.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Saint John	6,884	8,560	15,444	7,768	9,077	16,845	6,855	8,442	15,297
Saint Mary	2,113	2,234	4,347	2,084	2,151	4,235	2,013	2,124	4,137
Saint Paul	2,016	2,478	4,494	2,457	2,697	5,154	1,994	2,396	4,390
Saint Philip	1,921	2,136	4,057	1,896	1,989	3,885	1,926	2,033	3,959
Saint Peter	2,006	2,185	4,191	2,000	2,083	4,083	1,885	1,932	3,817
Saint George	1,782	1,863	3,645	1,411	1,523	2,934	1,951	1,857	3,808
Totals	16,722	16,456	36,178	17,616	19,520	37,136	16,624	18,784	35,408

No. 8.—Abstract of Registry of Births and Deaths for Period from 1st August to 31st December 1856.

Parish.	No. of Births.	Legitimate.		Illegitimate.		Complexion.			No. of Deaths.	Adults.		Under 14 & over 1 Year.		1 Year & under.		Complexion.		
		Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Black.	White.	Coloured.		Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Black.	White.	Coloured.
Saint John	189	42	49	52	46	79	50	60	362	114	124	20	17	47	40	227	27	108
Saint Mary	55	18	15	9	13	39	10	6	54	9	19	1	1	12	12	46	2	6
Saint Paul	49	8	9	11	21	38	6	5	75	20	20	2	2	11	20	62	4	9
Saint Philip	38	10	6	11	11	23	12	3	68	18	23	9	7	7	4	58	2	8
Saint Peter	45	10	12	11	12	19	20	6	69	20	21	6	6	6	10	49	8	12
Saint George	37	5	9	10	13	18	8	11	61	16	17	7	2	11	8	44	2	15
Totals	413	93	100	104	116	216	106	91	689	197	224	45	35	94	94	486	45	158

ANTIGUA.

No. 9.—Classification of Causes of Death for Period from 1st August to 31st December 1856.

Causes of Death.	No. of Deaths.	Adults.		Under 14 and over 1 Year.		1 Year and under		Complexion.		
		Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Black.	White.	Coloured.
I.—Specified Causes.—A. General Diseases.										
Zymotic (Epidemic, Endemic, or Contagious)	73	26	14	5	9	11	8	49	7	17
B. Sporadic Diseases, such as,										
Dropsy, Cancer, and other Diseases of uncertain or variable seat	37	13	15	5	1	—	3	22	4	11
Tubercular Diseases	16	9	4	1	—	—	2	12	—	4
Diseases of the Brain, Spinal Marrow, Nerves, and Senses	51	18	12	5	2	6	8	37	2	12
Diseases of the Heart and Blood-vessels	15	7	7	—	1	—	—	10	—	5
Diseases of the Lungs and other Organs of Respiration	96	25	41	8	3	6	13	72	6	18
Diseases of the Stomach, Liver, and other Organs of Digestion	144	43	30	14	13	26	18	98	16	30
Diseases of the Kidneys	5	3	2	—	—	—	—	2	—	3
Childbirth, Diseases of the Womb, &c.	3	—	3	—	—	—	—	1	—	2
Rheumatism, Diseases of the Bones, Joints, &c.	3	1	2	—	—	—	—	2	—	1
Diseases of the Skin, Cellular Tissue, &c.	17	10	5	1	1	—	—	14	1	2
Premature Birth and Debility	27	4	3	3	1	7	9	19	1	7
Atrophy	5	—	2	1	—	—	2	3	—	2
Age	93	26	67	—	—	—	—	74	2	17
Sudden	2	—	1	1	—	—	—	2	—	—
Violence, Privation, Poison, Intemperance, &c.	5	3	2	—	—	—	—	5	—	—
Still-born	54	—	—	—	—	27	27	39	1	14
II.—Causes not Specified	43	9	14	1	4	11	4	25	5	13
Totals	689	197	224	45	35	94	94	486	45	158

No. 10.—Number of Baptisms and Burials for the Year ending 31st December 1856; distinguishing those before and after the 1st of August.

	Baptisms.		Burials.	
	To 1st August.	Since 1st August.	To 1st August.	Since 1st August.
Church of England:				
Saint John's	219	120	263	241
Saint George	44	21	33	33
Saint Peter	44	25	37	38
Saint Philip	71	31	24	29
Saint Paul	26	29	20	19
Saint Mary	78	15	17	13
All Saints	40	18	20	10
Church of United Brethren:				
Saint John's	14	7	37	37
Grace Hill	22	7	19	20
Grace Bay	13	4	8	12
New Field	12	7	17	10
Cedar Hall	26	13	22	20
Lebanon	17	6	12	12
Grace Field	11	3	5	11
Green Bay	14	9	10	7
Five Islands	4	4	4	6
Wesleyan:				
Saint John's	10	7	16	13
Parham (St. Peter)	11	6	21	15
Freemanville „	1	2	—	—
Freetown (St. Philip)	4	—	5	11
Sion Hill „	6	4	3	9
Eng. Harbor (St. Paul's)	2	1	1	3
Bethesda „	4	3	7	3
Sawcolts „	1	—	—	—
Presbyterian:				
Saint John's	2	—	—	—
Totals	696	342	601	572

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No. 18.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Governor Hamilton to the Right Honourable H. Labouchere, M.P.

(Montserrat, No. 31.)

Leeward Islands, Antigua,
May 9, 1857.
(Received June 2, 1857.)

Sir,

I have the honour to transmit the Blue Book of Montserrat for the year 1856, with a Despatch of the President, in which he forwarded the same to me.

No. 16, 30th March 1857. Enclosure 1.

2. In the month of September in the year 1855, a new system of taxation was adopted by the legislature of Montserrat, but did not come into operation till July in 1856. Three quarters of a year having since run out, I have endeavoured to ascertain the success of the new system, the main feature of which is the abolition of import duties, and the imposition of a land tax in lieu of other taxation.

3. The system of taxation in force at Montserrat is one which admits of no expansion of income from prosperity or other causes, bears hard in adversity, and, being fixed, leaves no margin for contingencies.

4. It has been sought to arrange the civil establishment so as to exactly adjust its expenditure to the estimated revenue; and, there being no means of defraying incidental charges, the expense attending the trial of a man for murder has been cited as contributing to the present embarrassment.

5. But indeed the revenue has not proved adequate to the support of the ordinary civil establishment; for it is a mistake to attribute the deficiency of revenue to the circumstance that the new system did not come into operation at the commencement of the year. In a Despatch to me dated 13th September 1856, the President stated that, owing to the non-arrival of the Order in Council in time to save the first instalment of the Land Tax Act, made payable between the 1st and 10th March, the Treasury suffered the apparent loss of about 870*l.*, but was actually the gainer to the extent of about 78*l*; for the Imports and Exports were continued till the publication in the Islands of Her Majesty's assent to the repeal of the Tariff Act, and the duties received amounted to a trifle over 1,015*l.* Deducting therefore the cost of collection, the net amount received was 948*l.*, exceeding by 78*l.* the first instalment of the Land Tax Act averaged at 870*l.*

Governor Hamilton to President Rushworth, No. 5, 24th March 1857. Enclosure 2.

Ditto, ditto, No. 7, April 8. Enclosure 3.

6. The correspondence I append will shew the state of the contending parties and the difficulty of the government in inducing the assembly to raise an adequate revenue.

7. The original error committed in Montserrat was the abandonment of the accustomed taxation, and the introduction of direct taxation on land, without the certainty of its producing a revenue equal to the required expenditure.

President Rushworth to Governor Hamilton, Nos. 20, 22, and 23, of 14th, 15th, and 16th April. Enclosures 4, 5, and 6.

I have, &c.

(Signed) KER B. HAMILTON.

The Right Hon. H. Labouchere, M.P.,
&c. &c. &c.

Governor Hamilton to President Rushworth, No. 8, April 27, 1857. Enclosure 7.

Enclosure 1 in No. 18.

Copy of a Despatch from Mr. President Rushworth to Governor Hamilton.

(No. 16, Executive.)

Sir,

Montserrat, March 30, 1857.

I have the honour to forward herewith the Blue Book for the year 1856, and to submit the following remarks with reference to the statistics and general condition of the island for that period.

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2. The annexed comparative statement of imports and exports exhibits a very considerable increase in the estimated value of the former; while owing to a shorter crop of sugar in 1856 than in 1855 the return shows a decrease under the head of the latter.

	£	s.	d.
The estimated value of Imports in 1855 being - - -	7,704	1	11
„ „ 1856 „ - - -	13,984	10	6
Showing an excess in the past year of - - - -	6,280	8	7
That of Exports in 1855 - - - - - -	19,986	2	0
„ 1856 - - - - -	17,613	8	0
Shewing a decrease of - - - - - -	2,372	14	0

3. The return of the Imports in the past year shows that the advantages of an increased trade anticipated by the supporters of the abolition of all customs duties, and the imposition in lieu thereof of a direct tax on houses and land, have been fully realized.

The following comparative statement will show the articles upon which the chief increase has been made in the past year:—

Articles.	1855.			1856.		
	Quantity.	Value.		Quantity.	Value.	
		£	s. d.		£	s. d.
Meal - - -	Barrels 47 -	54	0 0	Barrels 550 -	550	0 0
	cas. cwts. qr. lbs.			cwts. qrs. lbs.		
Fish, dried - -	53 565 1 19	565	13 0	1,384 2 6 -	1,026	9 0
„ pickled -	Barrels 601 -	419	0 0	773 0 12 -	433	0 0
Flour - - -	Barrels 331 -	735	10 0	Barrels 717 -	1,448	0 0
Lumber - -	37,860 feet -	168	17 0	83,837 feet -	369	10 0
Merchandise -	- - -	3,245	13 1	- - -	6,164	6 0

4. The trade of the island has been relieved from the customs duties only for the period of five months in the past year, the Royal assent to the Act repealing the late Tariff Act having been received on the 30th July. Time, therefore, has not yet been afforded for giving the experiment either a fair or adequate trial.

The above statement, exhibiting the articles on which the greatest advance has been made, bears out the opinion held by the supporters of the recent fiscal measures, that the rural population of the island would largely benefit by an unrestricted freedom of intercourse with the neighbouring communities; and I further may add that I likewise adhere to my opinion, that the industrious planter will by the change enjoy equal, if not greater, advantages. With regard also to the policy generally of this mode of taxation, under the existing circumstances of the island, I entirely coincide with the views expressed by my predecessor in his report on the Blue Book for the year 1854, "that the necessary "revenue, at that time raised in five distinct modes, viz., import duties, export "duties, tonnage duties, property tax, and liquor licenses, might be raised by "two simple and inexpensive means, viz., a direct property tax upon all houses "and lands and by trade licenses. The taxation would be borne by the same "classes as at present, but from the simplicity of the process and the abolition "of imports and exports, and consequently of the staff connected with the collection of these and the various other duties, the expenditure of the island "might be reduced by nearly one-half."

5. That the new system has had to undergo a very severe ordeal from its very commencement no one can deny, and whether it will be allowed time sufficient for its full development it is impossible at present to speak with any certainty, owing, I may observe, solely to the extreme tenacity with which its opponents in the Assembly have resisted every proposition for the adjustment of the public expenditure to a scale commensurate with the altered position of the Revenue.

On this subject I will only add that I trust, for the sake of the true interests of the island, that the supporters of these measures in the Legislature will not be discouraged on account of the obstacles with which they have as yet been met; for it was evident from the very date of these measures receiving the sanction of the Legislature, that these difficulties would have to be encountered, and must be overcome to ensure a successful working of the system.

Turning again to the report already referred to, written indeed by my predecessor only a few months before the change in the fiscal arrangements of the island was introduced by myself to the notice of the Assembly, he thus remarks upon the opposition that may be expected against any proposition of this nature. "It is unnecessary, however, to dwell further upon the details of such a scheme, "as I fear that any measure for effecting such a change would meet with the "strenuous opposition of the House of Assembly, constituted as that branch of "the Legislature is at present; besides, in a small community such as this, "vested interests and established usages concur so strongly, that when any "general reduction or improvement is attempted, the crippled finances and "cloud of compensations to be afforded scare away all change."

The advocates of the recent changes in our financial policy may consider that they gained a considerable stride in influencing in their favour the majority of the then existing General Assembly, and whose legislation (the results of the last general election proved) was also viewed with satisfaction and approbation by the greater part of the community at large.

6. The following statement, showing the Export of Sugar in the past year, exhibits a falling off in quantity of about 195 hogsheads when contrasted with that exported in the year previous.

YEAR.	Sugar.			
	Hogsheads.	Tierces.	Barrels.	Equal to average sized Hogshead.
Exported in				
1855 - - - -	767	261	222	968
1856 - - - -	600	225	184	773

Decrease in 1856 - - 195 hogsheads.

In the year 1855 the Colonial Secretary estimated the value of the hogshead at 17*l.* sterling; for the past year that officer has estimated the value of the hogshead at 20*l.*, the tierce at 11*l.*, and the barrel at 2*l.* 10*s.*

7. According to the returns in the Blue Book the net amount of the general revenue for the year 1856 is stated at - - - - - 2,674 12 0

And the expenditure at - - - - -	2,669 19 8
With a balance in the Treasury of - - - -	4 12 4
	£2,674 12 0

The above statement solely, however, sets forth the actual receipts and payments of the Treasurer in the year, but does not exhibit the financial condition of the colony for 1856.

8. To gain this object it will be necessary to separate the items of revenue and expenditure belonging to 1855 from those of 1856.

The cash in the Treasury on the 1st January 1856 was 236*l.* 5*s.* 5*d.*, and the arrears of revenue belonging to 1855, but collected in 1856, were 118*l.* 8*s.* 1*d.*, amounting together to 354*l.* 13*s.* 6*d.*

On the other hand the arrears of expenditure in 1855 amounted to 403*l.* 15*s.* 7¼*d.*, leaving a deficiency of that year to be made good in 1856 of 49*l.* 2*s.* 1¼*d.*

The Treasurer also, among the receipts in aid of revenue, takes credit for 203*l.* 6*s.* 0½*d.* on account of advances made in the first instance from the Treasury to meet the default of certain loan borrowers on the 1st May, but afterwards refunded by the Loan Commissioners (which sum is charged in the account of public expenditure, being included in the 1,010*l.* 9*s.* 10*d.* as paid from the Treasury to these Commissioners).

Deducting, therefore, the above sums of 354*l.* 13*s.* 6*d.* and 203*l.* 6*s.* 0½*d.*, together 557*l.* 19*s.* 6½*d.*, from the gross amount of net revenue 2,674*l.* 12*s.* 0*d.*, the remainder 2,116*l.* 12*s.* 5½*d.* was the actual amount of taxes, duties, and incidental revenue raised in 1856.

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And deducting also this aggregate sum of 557*l.* 19*s.* 6½*d.* from the gross amount of expenditure (2,669*l.* 19*s.* 8*d.*), the remainder 2,112*l.* 0*s.* 1½*d.* was the amount expended in defraying the charges of the Government in 1856, and this sum, with the balance in the Treasurer's hands on the 31st December (4*l.* 12*s.* 4*d.*) will be found to correspond exactly with the actual amount of revenue raised in the year, viz. 2,116*l.* 12*s.* 5½*d.*

9. The following items composed the revenue of 1856.

	£	s.	d.
Import duty	617	4	2
Export duty	398	0	3
Liquor license	20	0	0
Property tax	870	12	4½
Boats' and porters' licenses	2	2	8
Fines, penalties, and forfeitures	30	15	0
Rent of Fort Barrington	4	8	10
Third instalment of the purchase of certain estates sold under the Loan Act	173	9	2
	£2,116	12	5½

And the following statement shows the details of the expenditure.

	£	s.	d.
Arrears of 1855	49	2	1¼
Civil establishment	728	4	3
Loan Commissioners	807	3	9½
Poor establishment	447	19	4¾
Jail and penal gang	39	0	0
Quarantine and Board of Health	8	9	0
Town wardens and care of courthouse	16	11	0
Hire of vessel to Antigua	4	6	4
Preparing and serving property tax accounts	6	6	0
Drawback	4	18	3
Balance in Treasurer's hands	4	12	4
	£2,116	12	5½

The following Returns will show the amount of liabilities outstanding on the 31st December 1856. Return No. 1. includes claims, payment of which was authorized by existing statutes.

No. 1.

	£	s.	d.
Due to officers of the civil establishment to the 30th September	128	18	11
„ Ecclesiastical to the 30th September	51	18	10½
„ Judicial to the 31st December	70	6	3
„ Loan Commissioners to the 31st December	15	0	0
„ Poor establishment	24	15	2
Expenses connected with the trial of the convict Howsen, executed for murder on the 4th December	58	11	8
Contingent expenses to the 30th September	47	4	8½
Balance on Loan account	18	7	10
	£415	3	5

Return No. 2 includes outstanding debts, for the payment of which no authority had been given by the Legislature up to the 31st December; or even, indeed, has been given up to the date of this report.

No. 2.

	£	s.	d.
Civil Establishment for the Quarter ended the 31st December, computed according to the rate of salaries and allowances hitherto enjoyed	186	19	0½
Miscellaneous Accounts	56	5	5
	£243	4	5½

In the early part of the year the House of Assembly did make one attempt to supply the deficiency of revenue occasioned by the loss of the first instalment of the Property Tax, the Royal Assent to that Act and the one repealing the late Tariff Act not having arrived in time to allow of its collection. The second legislation being, however, based on the same principles as the Acts then awaiting Her Majesty's pleasure, was deemed inadmissible. The differences

that afterwards arose in the Legislature on the question of the future salaries of certain of the public officers, increased still farther the difficulties in the adjustment of the expenditure to the revenue, and to which I have already alluded in the former part of my report.

As no definite agreement could be arrived at during the year, the whole of these liabilities have now to be borne by the revenue raised in the present year, which, without considerable additional provision, will be insufficient to defray the cost of the Government. The longer the delay on the part of the Legislature in the settlement of this question (still under discussion), so much the heavier will be the burdens that of necessity will have to be imposed on the community for the liquidation of this excess of expenditure over the annual revenue of the island.

The first moiety of the Property Tax for the current year 1857 having now been received, all the outstanding claims to the 31st December, set forth in the above return, marked No. 1, payable under legislative authority, and with which the Executive alone have power to deal, have been discharged, with the exception of the contingent expenses to the 30th September, amounting to 47*l.* 4*s.* 8½*d.*; this account, though audited by the Committee of Public Accounts, has not yet been passed by the Legislature, and their assent is required before an order can be issued for the payment by the Executive.

10. The system that has been pursued in this island for some years in providing for the officers employed in the public service, is, in my opinion, most objectionable; with the exception of the Chief Justice and Queen's Counsel provided for by the Judicial Act, and the Loan Commissioners by the Loan Act, all the Civil Servants have been dependent on quarterly resolutions of the Legislature. Among other evils attendant on this state of things, the two following, I consider, the most prominent: the interests of all these officers being combined in the passing of this resolution, their united influence has ever been found sufficient to render all attempts nugatory for consolidating the Civil Establishment within limits proportionate to the wants and finances of the island.

In the next place, the revenues being inadequate to meet the charges, the regular payment of the salaries in cash on quarter day has seldom ever happened in this island. The custom that has for years prevailed, has been for the officer administering the Government, as soon as the quarterly resolution has been passed by the Legislature, to issue warrants to be delivered by the treasurer to every claimant on the Treasury; these the parties have, for their own support and maintenance, to negotiate either with the shopkeepers or others engaged in this paper traffic, at very ruinous discount; indeed I have been informed, that calculating the rate of discount for the number of days for which the accommodation has been sought, some of the officers have at times been deducted of nearly cent. per cent. on their orders.

While the officers are thus sustaining a loss on their reputed incomes, the treasury is not placed in a more solvent condition, as these warrants have to be received back at par when the taxes become payable. The only parties, therefore, who are the gainers, are those engaged in this traffic of buying and selling treasury paper, and whose interest it is to depreciate to the lowest point this description of paper money, and whose custom it is, to rise in their demands, at all times most exorbitant, in exact proportion to the necessities of the parties who are forced to seek the accommodation.

11. The adjustment of the Civil List occupied the undivided attention of the Legislature during the entire of the last year, without, however, any profitable results. In the month of October an Act was passed for the payment, to the 30th of September, of all salaries and allowances at the rates hitherto enjoyed, and the same, as I have before observed, have been liquidated out of the instalment of the Property Tax received during the present month.

A resolution was passed at the end of last September by the House of Assembly, and concurred in by the Legislative Council, that the reduction in the Civil List should take date from the 1st of October, but no measure has yet been agreed on.

12. An intimation has been made by the Executive to the Legislature, that the establishment should now be placed on a permanent footing, and adequate provision made so that the salaries in future be regularly and quarterly met.

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I have further informed the Council, as well as the House of Assembly, that henceforth no order will on any account be issued to the treasurer for payments at a future period: at the present date no warrant is outstanding, and this description of paper money is extinct in the island.

A compliance by the Legislature with the first recommendation, and a rigid observance of the latter by the Executive will, I trust, tend to the correction of some of the evils I have thought it necessary to dwell on in explanation of the financial condition of the island.

13. Notwithstanding the many difficulties of the past year, the Executive, I am glad to say, have been able to continue the system of defraying monthly the poor expenditure, as well as the cost of the maintenance of the prisoners in the gaol: had the Government been forced back on the old ruinous system of contracting for these services, the expenses would have been more than doubled, and the pressure on the Treasury at this time increased in like proportion.

14. The annual instalment and interest due on the loan from Her Majesty's Government has been fully discharged. In the latter part of the past year an examination into the position of the account between Her Majesty's Government and this island was made by the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury, and some slight discrepancies were discovered in the amount of the remittances stated to have been made from time to time from the island, and those received at the Treasury: these discrepancies, it has been presumed, must have arisen from the costs and charges incurred in the negociation of the bills of exchange, generally drawn in this island at 90 days' sight, and at present are under inquiry. The amount, however, claimed by the Treasury (18*l.* 7*s.* 10*d.*) has been remitted, and the accounts are satisfactorily closed, as far as the past is concerned.

The subject of this loan, and the mode pursued in the application of the proceeds, has been so frequently and at so great length treated on by my predecessors in their annual reports, that any general statement now made could only be a recapitulation of the several facts and opinions already recorded thereon. I will only, therefore, remark, that with regard to the future, I fear the island will have, for many years to come, to suffer from the mismanagement of the moneys lent to assist the proprietors, in compliance with their urgent entreaties, after the earthquake in 1843, but appropriated indeed to far different purposes than those intended by Her Majesty's Government at the time when they so liberally responded to the application.

15. The island has continued healthy during the past year: the rural population have been also quiet, contented, and orderly. Their condition may be said to be one of great comfort; and, although they do not enjoy so high a rate of wages as in the neighbouring communities, yet they are allowed very extensive privileges in the cultivation of provision grounds, and the rearing of stock on the estates on which they give their labour. Many of them are thereby enabled to accumulate and lay by a little store of money, and with these savings I am glad to find that there is a very general disposition among this class to purchase small portions of land and erect dwelling houses thereon; as I am confident that by thus becoming attached to the soil, and obtaining a permanent interest in the island, the inducement to emigrate to the larger islands in the expectation of bettering their condition on account of their labour commanding elsewhere a higher rate of pecuniary remuneration will be proportionably lessened. From this system of emigration the proprietary body are represented to have suffered very considerably in former years, and it has been of late feared that a repetition of the same might be expected, owing to the stimulus given to cultivation on account of the recent rise in the price of all West Indian produce in the European and American markets.

16. On the subject of the state of crime and offences for the year 1856, with the exception of one offence of an atrocious and flagrant nature, from which the island had been happily exempt for a long series of years, there does not appear by the report of the stipendiary magistrate to have been any considerable increase of crime during the past year in comparison with the former ones; and though the convictions of petty offences are rather more numerous on the face of the official returns, they are not of that importance as to require any special notice.

The circumstances attendant on the case to which allusion has been made, were these: —

An old African negro, named Providence Daly, having been solicited by the son of a black man, named Richard Howsen, with whom the negro lived, and on whose premises he was allowed to cultivate a spot of land, to join in the larceny of a sheep, refused, and the son committed the offence alone.

On legal proceedings being instituted by the owner of the sheep, the negro was the principal witness, and the son was committed for trial.

Before, however, the period arrived for holding the courts, Richard Howsen the father, either out of revenge or to prevent the negro's evidence being given on the trial, caused Daly's death by the administration of arsenic concealed in a roasted potato.

The guilt of Richard Howsen was clearly established on the trial, and being condemned, the murderer suffered the extreme penalty of the law. Previous to this there had not been an execution in this island for thirty-five years.

17. The stipendiary magistrate again, in his report this year, expresses his regret that the magistrates are not armed with a discretionary power of pronouncing sentences of hard labour in many of the frequently recurring offences, which greatly tend to increase the amount of complaints adjudicated by the justices, and there is no doubt that good results would follow from the adoption of the suggestion. In this respect the laws of the island are both faulty and imperfect, and their revision is greatly needed.

18. The mode also of paying the constables for their services is most objectionable, and tends very considerably to increase one class of convictions, viz., "for abusive and provoking language tending to a breach of the peace," the hearing and investigation of which offence occupies almost the undivided attention of the justices at each sitting. The constables receive no fixed salary, but receive remuneration on each warrant; the greater therefore the number of cases, so much the more profitable this office. The necessary consequence is, that in nine cases out of ten, the parties themselves would mutually arrange their differences, but for the active and officious interference of these constables. The remedy is very simple, all that is required being the power of appointment, by the Executive, of a small number of constables with fixed salaries. The subject I have brought repeatedly under the notice of the members of both branches of the Legislature, who all acknowledge the evil, but as yet they have not been equal to the exertion of applying the remedy.

19. Before concluding my report, a few observations will not, I consider, be inapplicable on the existing condition and state of the representative institutions of the island, as the several evils which have been pointed out, must through their agency be either fully remedied or materially improved.

20. The population of the island taken by the last census in 1851 consisted of 3,149 males, and 3,894 females, in all 7,043 souls, and I believe no very material difference in this number exists between that date and the present period.

21. The present constitution of the island consists of the Officer administering the Government, a Legislative Council, and a House of Assembly.

The Legislative Council consists of seven Members; one, however, the Bishop of the Diocese, is non-resident.

The House of Assembly is composed of twelve Members.

22. The following statement will show the number of districts into which the island is divided, the number of Members returned by each district, with the number of voters at the last general election, held in October 1855:—

Name of Electoral Division.	Number of Representatives.	Number of Voters at last General Election.
Towns of Plymouth and Kinsale - -	4	99
Parish of St. Anthony - - -	2	107
Parish of St. Peter - - - -	2	96
Parish of St. George - - - -	2	72
Parish of St. Patrick - - -	2	26
	12	400

23. There is no legislative enactment relating to the Assembly, either creating the body, defining its number, or fixing its duration; nor is there any law

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regulating the franchise, nor any registration of electors. The Legislature is at any period of the year convened by summons from the Executive.

24. That this constitution can be amended, and a more simple and compact form of government substituted in its stead, few unprejudiced persons will, I think, be found, even in the island, to deny; but hitherto the obstacles interposed have been more than sufficient to prevent the accomplishment of even any modification in the existing machinery, too cumbrous indeed for the work that it should, but does not, perform, and too expensive for the scanty means available for its proper support.

25. The sound policy of its revision has been frequently urged on the attention of all interested by those invested with the chief authority in this command, and has, moreover, been admitted by large and frequent majorities in both Houses; but an unfortunate fatality seems to have attended all their efforts in actual legislation, which, on this very question, has from time to time been under their consideration for a period exceeding twenty years.

26. On reference to the journals of the Legislative Council, I find that so far back as the year 1836 that body forwarded a petition to His Majesty, setting forth the condition of the legislative business of the colony, and stating, among other matters, "that the sum of 7,000*l.* gold and silver money was due on the "1st of January in that year, to the public creditors, and that there were no ways "and means to extricate the colony from its difficulties, and praying that a "Lieutenant-Governor and Councillors may be appointed to carry on the public "and legislative business, and that the new mode now proposed was the only "alternative for saving the colony from utter ruin and destruction."

In the year 1845, on the 18th April, the state of the representative institutions of the island was taken into consideration by the House of Assembly, and at the meeting held on that day the House passed resolutions reporting, among other matters, "That great injury was sustained by all classes of the community "from the very slow and imperfect manner in which the legislative business of "the island was conducted, arising chiefly from the continued absence of a "large proportion of the landed proprietors, and the marked disinclination of "those resident to fill seats in the Assembly; and that the only remedy for the "various evils was to be found by abolishing the functions of the House of "Assembly of this island, and in a legislative as well as judicial union with the "important and prosperous island of Antigua; and the concurrence of the "Council was requested to join with them in a memorial to the Governor-in-"Chief to that effect." The Board of Council, in agreeing to the proposition of the Assembly, placed the following resolutions on their records on the 15th August of that year.

Resolved: "That, looking forward to the proffered improvement of our "judicial system, this Board are of opinion that it would be thwarted in its "operation by a continuance of the present legislative form, a system depre-"cated unanimously by this Board since the year 1836, when a memorial was "forwarded to the Right Honourable the Secretary for the Colonies, setting "forth the advantage that would accrue to the colony by abrogating the charter, "and being governed by orders in Council." "That the remedy which pre-"sents itself to rescue the colony from its present degraded system is either a "favourable acquiescence in the prayer of that memorial, or a legislative and "judicial union with the Government of Antigua."

In the year 1847 both branches of the Legislature returned to the same subject, and the Governor-in-Chief being at that time in the island, a joint letter was addressed to him by the President of the Legislative Council and the Speaker of the House of Assembly, enclosing the resolutions passed by the Assembly and concurred in by the Council, recommending a legislative union and incorporation with the island of Antigua.

Of the advantages that Montserrat would derive from that union, Governor Higginson has left his opinion on record in his Despatch accompanying the Blue Book of Montserrat for the year 1847:—

'A legislative and more intimate union with Antigua would, in my opinion, "as I have previously stated, confer essential advantages on Montserrat, and "might perhaps rescue her from the ruin with which she is threatened; but I "have now much reason to fear that the proposition which has been made by

" the Legislature of Montserrat to that of Antigua with a view to effect such " an incorporation will not be entertained by the latter Colony."

In the year 1848, when the Assembly found that there was no longer any hope of the Government of Antigua acceding to the proposition for a Legislative union and complete incorporation with that island, they again passed resolutions for transmission to the Home Government, stating " that the House " having taken into its serious consideration the unhappy position of the island, " with a large and rapidly increasing public debt, a declining revenue, and an " unremunerative and retrograding agriculture, and an impoverished population " is again constrained to declare its inability longer to provide for the present " costly, cumbrous, and inefficient Government establishment, and that the only " measure by which it appears to this House relief can be afforded is by Her " Majesty's Government substituting a Council of Government (to be part " elective) in place of the present House of Assembly and Board of Council, " and by the Imperial Government assisting in the payment of salaries, which " it is impossible the resources of the Colony can longer meet, as at present " fixed."

In the year 1852 a measure was at length perfected by the Legislature for altering its constitution by the union in one body of the Council and Assembly.

Of the necessity of this measure the late Captain Booth, then administering the Government of the island, thus speaks in his report accompanying the Blue Book of that year :—

" This latter Act must be regarded, should it receive Her most Gracious " Majesty's assent, as highly important to the interests of the island, for not " only is the community of small extent, but the number of educated persons " composing it so limited, that under the present system legislators have to be " sought among those who can but barely read or write."

This Act very unfortunately being defective in three points, affecting the Royal Prerogative, was returned for amendment by the Home Government. A new Bill was again introduced in the following year, but its supporters were left in a minority in the Assembly, and the measure fell to the ground. Since that time there has been no inclination manifested in the Lower House to resume the consideration of the subject.

27. That a measure similar in principle to the one now in operation in another Presidency within this command, the Virgin Islands, would prove beneficial, I have no doubt; the subject, indeed, has been discussed a good deal recently without the Legislature. Owing, however, to its unpopularity among the bulk of the electors, no member of the Assembly has up to this period been found willing to take upon himself either its introduction, or even boldly to advocate the sound policy of its adoption.

28. At the same time my opinion entirely coincides with that expressed by Governor Higginson, that, if possible to be effected, a legislative union and complete incorporation with Antigua would prove the most beneficial of all measures yet advanced for the true interests and permanent welfare of the island of Montserrat.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWARD E. RUSHWORTH.

His Excellency the Governor-in-Chief,

&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure 2 in No. 18. Encl. 2 in No. 18.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor HAMILTON to Mr. President RUSHWORTH.

(Montserrat, No. 5.)

SIR, Government House, Antigua, March 24, 1857.

NOT having lately heard from you on the subject of the financial condition of Montserrat, I request you will report to me thereon, and furnish me with a statement of any public debt due and unpaid to the 31st December last.

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2. I request you will be so good as to furnish me with statements of the actual revenue and expenditure for the years 1855 and 1856, and comparative statement of the revenue of those years. Also estimate of revenue and expenditure of the current year, and a return of the reductions in the civil establishment since the year 1848.

3. I enclose a statement made to me by a merchant interested in the island, respecting the assessment of estates for taxation, and request to know whether the same is correct or in what particular inaccurate, and that you will send me a report in a tabular form, shewing the valuation of estates on the tax roll; amount for which any such estate has been sold within the last four years; amount of taxation at per cent on value; amount of per-centage on fee simple valuation as per sales, paid yearly for taxes. Also population and rate of taxation showing on how many persons the Land Tax is levied, how many persons pay the same, and in what proportions, and how many persons remain untaxed.

4. Referring to the minutes of the assembly forwarded to me in your Despatch No. 12, of the 28th ultimo, I wish to be informed whether the Assembly has persisted in refusing or neglecting to consider the question of raising a sufficient revenue, and what was the cause of no business being done after the introduction of the resolutions moved by Mr. Chambers, and seconded by Mr. Hill.

I have, &c.
(Signed) KER B. HAMILTON,
Governor-in-Chief.

His Honour the President administering the Government, Montserrat.

Encl. 3 in No. 18.

Enclosure 3 in No. 18.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor HAMILTON to Mr. President RUSHWORTH.

(Montserrat, No. 7.)

SIR, Antigua, Government House, April 8, 1857.

I HAVE received your Despatch, No. 16, of the 30th ultimo, reporting on the Blue Book for the year 1856, and I shall have much pleasure in submitting your interesting remarks to the consideration of the Secretary of State.

2. In order to give a fair trial to the system of direct taxation lately introduced in Montserrat, it will be necessary that the revenue and expenditure should be equalized.

3. I observed from the Minutes of the Assembly, that your proposal of increased taxation to fulfil this object is continually met by the statement that you represented, at a former time, that in your opinion no further taxation would be necessary. But it should be considered by the Assembly that your estimate was formed on a basis of reduction, which could not be fully carried out, and the Act introducing the new system did not come into operation so soon as you anticipated.

4. I hope, therefore, that on your making known to the Assembly the actual amount required to provide for the arrears of, and maintain, the Civil Establishment, the House will no longer defer to make the necessary provision.

5. If a revision of the value of real estate for taxation be desired, that may be done by equitable legislation.

6. The introduction of trade licenses, as suggested by your predecessor and referred to by you, is worthy of the consideration of the Council and Assembly.

7. You are at liberty to communicate this Despatch or any part of it to the Assembly.

I have, &c.
(Signed) KER B. HAMILTON,
Governor-in-Chief.

His Honour the President administering the Government, Montserrat.

Enclosure 4 in No. 18.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Mr. President RUSHWORTH to Governor HAMILTON.

(No. 20, Financial.)

SIR, Montserrat, April 14, 1857.

1. IN transmitting the several accompanying Returns prepared for the purpose of showing in full detail the past transactions relating to the Revenue and Expenditure of the island in the years 1855 and 1856, as also the actual position of the public accounts for the present year, I trust that the following statement, together with the observations contained in my Report forwarded with the Blue Book for 1856, will furnish all the information on the financial condition of Montserrat, that your Excellency has called for in your Despatch No. 5, dated the 24th ultimo.

2. The Returns marked Nos. 1, 2, 3, contain the particulars of the Revenue and Expenditure for the years 1855 and 1856, as also a comparative view of the position of the public accounts of those years. The amount of all the public liabilities due and unpaid to the 31st December 1856 is placed at the foot of the financial statement of that year.

3. On the 1st January 1855, the position of the revenue stood thus: cash in the public chest, 111*l.* 11*s.* 9¾*d.*; arrears of revenue belonging to 1854, but not paid in at that date, 158*l.* 14*s.* 8½*d.*, together amounting to the sum of 270*l.* 6*s.* 6¼*d.*

On the other hand the liabilities due and unpaid to the 31st December 1854 amounted to 882*l.* 7*s.* 4¾*d.*; of this aggregate sum, 664*l.* 8*s.* 10*d.* was due on account of salaries to the Civil servants of the crown, the remainder 217*l.* 18*s.* 6¾*d.* being for miscellaneous expenses.

Deducting, therefore, the amount of cash in the treasurer's hands and the amount of outstanding revenue uncollected on the 31st December 1854, from the gross amount of the liabilities due and unpaid at that date, the public debt on the 1st January 1855 was 612*l.* 0*s.* 10½*d.*

4. The total amount of revenue for the year 1855, was 3,348*l.* 10*s.* 11*d.*; this amount includes 118*l.* 8*s.* 1*d.* outstanding on the 31st December, 1855, but received in 1856.

The following are the chief sources from which the above sum was derived: import duty, 885*l.* 10*s.* 2½*d.*; export duty, 554*l.* 14*s.* 9*d.*; and Property Tax, 1,074*l.* 4*s.* 6¼*d.*; this latter tax was raised by a rate of three-quarters per cent. upon the value of all real property in the island.

5. The total expenditure was 3,397*l.* 13*s.* 0¼*d.*; this sum, however, includes the debt of 1854, amounting to 612*l.* 0*s.* 10½*d.*; deducting, therefore, the arrears of expenditure of 1854, the actual expenditure of 1855 may be taken at 2,785*l.* 13*s.* 1¾*d.*

6. On the 31st December 1855, the cash in the public chest was 236*l.* 5*s.* 5*d.*, and there were arrears of revenue outstanding to the amount of 118*l.* 8*s.* 1*d.*, in all 354*l.* 13*s.* 6*d.*

7. The public liabilities due and unpaid to the 31st December 1855 amounted to 403*l.* 15*s.* 7½*d.*, of which sum 308*l.* 9*s.* 2½*d.* was due on account of official salaries, and the remainder for miscellaneous expenses: these arrears remained unliquidated till the month of September last, when the Act for their settlement finally passed the Legislature.

8. Taking, however, the revenue and expenditure of the island to the close of the year 1855, the actual deficit on the settlement of the public accounts up to that period was 49*l.* 2*s.* 1¼*d.*

9. The actual amount of revenue raised in 1856 was 2,116*l.* 12*s.* 5½*d.*; the following were the principal items of revenue, import duty 617*l.* 4*s.* 2*d.*, export duty 398*l.* 0*s.* 3*d.*, property tax 870*l.* 12*s.* 4½*d.* The latter tax was raised under an Act passed in 1855 for levying a rate of one and a quarter per cent. upon the value of real property in the country, and three-quarters per cent. on the value of real property in the town, and its duration was fixed for three years from the date of its passing the Legislature. The Royal assent not arriving till the 30th of July 1856, the first moiety payable in the month of March was lost to the public treasury, and the second instalment payable in August but postponed to September by an Act of the Legislature was alone received.

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11. The actual expenditure, or rather I should say the amount disbursed from the Treasury, was 2,112*l.* 0*s.* 1½*d.*, leaving in the public chest on the 31st December last the sum of 4*l.* 12*s.* 4*d.* The amount of public liabilities due to the 31st December last was 658*l.* 7*s.* 10½*d.*; of this aggregate amount 180*l.* 17*s.* 9½*d.* was due to the civil establishment on account of their salaries to the 30th September 1856, under the authority of an Act of the Legislature passed in the month of October, 85*l.* 6*s.* 3*d.* was due to the officers on the judicial establishment and the Loan Commissioners for their salaries for the quarter ended the 31st December, whose salaries are secure by permanent Acts, 18*l.* 7*s.* 10*d.* for balance stated by the Lords of the Treasury to be due on an examination of the loan accounts, 186*l.* 16*s.* 11½*d.* on account of miscellaneous expenditure, and the remainder 186*l.* 19*s.* 11½*d.* on account of the civil establishment for the quarter ended the 31st December. This item has been computed according to the rate of salaries and allowances hitherto enjoyed, but has not been sanctioned or provided for by the Legislature.

Deducting, therefore, the cash in the chest on the 31st December, 4*l.* 12*s.* 4*d.*, from the total amount of liabilities due and unpaid to that period, 658*l.* 7*s.* 10½*d.*, the actual deficit on the year may be taken at 653*l.* 15*s.* 6½*d.*

12. Before entering on the estimate of revenue and expenditure for the current year, I have a few observations to make on the loss sustained by the revenue on account of the differences in the Legislature on the amount of the salaries to be paid to the civil officers in this Government. It is not my intention to enter into any discussion on these dissensions, but simply to point out the injury occasioned thereby to the finances of the island.

In the first place the Act imposing liquor licenses was suffered to expire without renewal, and the loss upon this item to the revenue may be estimated at not less than 100*l.*

In the next place, certain encumbered estates in the hands of the Loan Commissioners were left valueless and unprofitable during the whole year, owing solely to the want of an Act of the Legislature, empowering the Commissioners to offer them at public sale. The proceeds that may be expected from these properties (assumed by the Treasurer as part of the revenue of 1857, in his estimate of revenue and expenditure for the current year), may, I have been given to understand, be calculated at 293*l.*

In the third place, the first moiety of the property tax remained uncollected, owing to the reasons already stated. This may be calculated at about 870*l.*

The three items would have given a revenue of 1,263*l.*, which, after discharging the entire debt of 653*l.* 15*s.* 6½*d.*, would have left a surplus available for the present year of upwards of 600*l.*

But, without laying too great a weight of taxation on the island, had the Legislature, after the receipt of the Royal assent to the late fiscal measures, perfected a bill in accordance with the principle of the one passed in the Assembly in the month of March, of reimposing the lapsed instalment and returning to the proprietary body the amounts severally paid by them for export duty, the sum of 472*l.* would have been raised; and this lesser amount, with the two first items above alluded to, would have liquidated the deficit and left 200*l.* over, which might have been carried to the credit of the present year.

In the past year the miscellaneous expenditure of the island was increased by the expenses attendant on the trial and execution of a criminal convicted of murder; this unforeseen contingency cost the colony 72*l.* sterling.

13. I will now proceed to the estimate of the revenue and expenditure for the current year, and I will in the first place consider the accounts of 1857 entirely apart from the debt left unpaid at the close of 1856.

14. The statement has been prepared by the Treasurer, and your Excellency will perceive that the fixed Revenue is calculated at 1,980*l.* A further sum of 405*l.* 10*s.* is taken into the account as disposable for the services of the year; this amount is composed of two items, 112*l.* 10*s.* for liquor licenses, (the Bill for their imposition having never gone through all its stages in the House of Assembly), and 293*l.* as the proceeds to be derived from the sale of certain encumbered estates under the Loan Act, (the Bill giving authority for their sale has not yet been introduced in the lower branch of the Legislature.)

These items when combined will give a revenue of 2,385*l.* 10*s.*; on the other hand the expenditure has been reckoned at 2,461*l.* 0*s.* 6*d.*

I must here remark that in this estimate the cost of the civil establishment has been computed at the former rates and allowances, which the Assembly up to this period have not shown any disposition to accord.

Taking, however, the figures as they stand in the accompanying statement, a deficit of 75*l.* 10*s.* 6*d.* may be expected when the revenue and expenditure of 1857 come to be adjusted at the close of the year.

To this assumed deficit of 75*l.* 10*s.* 6*d.* I will now add the actual deficiency at the close of 1856, 653*l.* 15*s.* 6½*d.*, in all 729*l.* 6*s.* 0½*d.*, and this sum will be the probable amount of deficiency at the close of 1857, should no provision be made during the year for its liquidation by the legislature.

15. Of the probable conduct of the representatives of the people when assembled in their legislative chambers, it is, I have from experience found, impossible to speak with any degree of accuracy, even a few seconds before the actual moment of their entering on the public business of the day; and in consequence of this extreme uncertainty of their behaviour I have been reluctan for some time to express to your Excellency any conjectures or expectations of my own, even though I may have formed them from the most positive assurances made to me personally by members of that body.

I may observe, however, that the differences on the settlement of the Civil List are still, as they have been all along, the real obstacles to the adjustment of the finances, and until that question is finally disposed of I entertain no hope of any definite action being taken by the Assembly for the discharge of the present debt.

As soon as the salaries of the officers have been placed on a fixed and permanent basis, if any credit is to be attached to the declarations made on the subject, I believe I may state to your Excellency that the debt will be discharged by recourse to an additional levy on real property at a per-centage somewhat less than the amount the proprietary body would have paid, had the Royal assent to the Tax Act arrived in time to admit of its collection in March 1856.

16. When, however, fair consideration is given to the circumstance, that the lost moiety of the Property Tax in the past year would, had it been re-imposed, more than covered every outstanding liability due the 31st December last, and if now levied will even more than suffice for the estimated demands on the Treasury to the close of the present year, I cannot, provided the legislature deal fairly and promptly with the present exigencies of the public service, join in that cry of alarm and despondency that has been expressed on the financial condition of Montserrat.

17. In Return marked No. 5, I transmit a tabular statement showing the expenditure, both Imperial and Colonial, for the civil establishment of the island in the year 1848, as well as the cost under both heads at the present period, together with the savings that have accrued both to the Imperial and Local Governments during that interval.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDW. E. RUSHWORTH.

His Excellency the Governor-in-Chief,
&c. &c. &c.

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Sub-Enclosure 1 to Enclosure 4 in No. 18.

STATEMENT of the REVENUE and EXPENDITURE of the ISLAND of MONTSERRAT for the Year 1855.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Import and export duty -	1,440	4	11½				Public debt of 1854, paid in full - - - - -	-	-	-	612	0	10½
Fines, penalties, and forfeitures - - - -	47	19	5¾				Civil establishment - -	759	16	4			
Liquor license - - -	60	0	0				Judicial „ - -	281	5	0			
Tonnage duty - - -	20	10	0				Ecclesiastical „ - -	207	15	6			
Porters' license - - -	1	18	8				Road „ - -	12	3	2¾			
Property tax - - -	1,074	4	6¼				Poor „ - -	392	7	0¼			
Proceeds of seizures - -	4	2	6				Miscellaneous expenditure -	115	17	5¾			
Payments by Loan Commissioners - - - - -	378	18	0				Public grant - - -	50	0	0			
Loan deposit fund transferred to general revenue - -	20	9	10½				Tonnage duty refunded -	0	7	6			
Sale of loan encumbered estates - - - - -	181	14	10				Jail and penal gang - -	40	8	11			
Outstanding revenue - -	118	8	1				Loan account - - -	921	1	2			
				3,348	10	11	Care of court house - -	4	10	0			
Excess of expenditure (after the payment in full of all arrears of the previous year) - - - - -	-	-	-	49	2	1¼					2,785	12	1¾
				3,397	13	0¼					3,397	13	0¼

Sub-Enclosure 2 to Enclosure 4 in No. 18.

STATEMENT of the REVENUE and EXPENDITURE of the ISLAND of MONTSERRAT for the Year 1856.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Import duty for seven months	617	4	2				Arrears of 1855 paid in 1856	-	-	-	49	2	1¼
Export duty ditto	398	0	3				Civil establishment - -	692	15	10			
Liquor license - - -	20	0	0				Ecclesiastical ditto - -	207	14	9			
Property tax - - -	870	12	4½				Judicial ditto - -	280	16	9			
Boats' and porters' licenses -	2	2	8				Poor ditto - -	472	14	6¾			
Fines, penalties, and forfeitures - - - -	30	15	0				Loan account - - -	825	11	7½			
Rent of Fort Barrington -	4	8	10				Jail - - - -	39	0	0			
Third instalment for purchase money of Paradise, &c. -	173	9	2				Town wardens and other miscellaneous expenses -	40	10	7			
Total revenue for 1856				2,116	12	5½	Grant to Dr. Lodratt, and hire of a vessel - -	58	11	8			
Excess of expenditure over revenue - - - -	-	-	-	653	15	6½	Contingent expenses adjusted by committee -	103	10	1½			
							Total expenditure -				2721	5	10¾
				2,770	8	0					2,770	8	0

RETURN of Public Debts due and unpaid to 31st December 1856.

	£	s.	d.
Ecclesiastical establishment - - - - - -	103	17	9
Civil ditto - - - - - -	271	2	10
Judicial ditto - - - - - -	78	2	6
Poor ditto - - - - - -	24	15	2
Loan - - - - - - - - -	18	7	10
Dr. Lodratt and Wyke - - - - - -	58	11	8
Committee - - - - - - - - -	103	10	1½
	658	7	10½

Sub-Enclosure 3 to Enclosure 4 in No. 18.

COMPARATIVE RETURN.

REVENUE for 1855 and 1856.

—	Received in 1855.	Received in 1856.	Increase.	Decrease.	Remarks.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
Import and export duty -	1,440 4 11½	1,015 4 5	- - -	425 0 6½	Duty repealed in July 1856.
Fines, penalties, and forfeitures - - -	52 1 11¾	30 15 0	- - -	21 6 11¾	
Liquor license - - -	60 0 0	20 0 0	- - -	40 0 0	Act imposing duty expired in June 1856.
Tonnage duty Act - -	20 10 0	- - -	- - -	20 10 0	Tonnage duty Act repealed in 1856.
Porters' license - -	1 18 8	2 2 8	0 4 0	—	
Property tax - - -	1,074 4 6¼	870 12 4½	- - -	203 12 1¾	The first instalment of the Land Tax, 1856, was not received in consequence of the Tax Act not having been confirmed until after the date fixed for the payment of such instalment.
Payments made by Loan Commissioners - -	378 18 0	- - -	- - -	378 18 0	Repayments made by the Loan Commissioners into the public treasury on account of advance made to meet the default of certain private borrowers.
Loan deposit fund, transferred to general revenue -	20 9 10½	- - -	- - -	20 9 10½	
Sale of loan encumbered estates - - -	181 14 10	173 9 2	- - -	8 5 8	
Outstanding revenue - -	118 8 1	- - -	- - -	118 8 1	
Rent of Fort Barrington -	- - -	4 8 10	4 8 10	—	
	3,348 10 11	2,116 12 5½	4 12 10	1,236 11 3½	

Sub-Enclosure 4 in Enclosure 4 in No. 18.

ESTIMATE of the REVENUE and EXPENDITURE of the Colony of MONTSERRAT for the Year 1857.

FIXED REVENUE.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	EXPENDITURE.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Property tax - - -	1,780 0 0		Judicial establishment, viz.: Chief Justice, 150*l.*; Queen's Counsel, 13*l.* 5*s.* - - - -	281 5 0	
Fines, penalties, and forfeitures - - -	30 0 0				
Final instalment for Paradise	170 0 0				
Total fixed revenue -		1,980 0 0	Ecclesiastical establishment: one rector - - -	207 15 6	
ESTIMATED.			Civil establishment, viz.: Secretary and Treasurer, 210*l.*; Marshal, 120*l.*; Clerk of Assembly, 100*l.*; Loan Commissioners, 6*l.*; Coroners, 27*l.*; Sergeant-at-Arms, 12*l.*; Gaoler, 30*l.*; stationery, 8*l.* -	567 0 0	
Liquor license - - -	112 10 0				
Sale of loan encumbered estates, viz.:—					
Gerrald's (if sold free from all taxes for three years)	100 0 0				
Mr. Miller's lot - -	100 0 0				
Lot of J. Dobridge - -	6 0 0				
Cove - - - -	35 0 0		Poor establishment - -	420 0 0	
Morris's - - -	25 0 0		Gaol expenses - - -	40 0 0	
Barks - - - -	12 0 0		Government loan - -	810 0 0	
Mr. Carpenter's lot -	15 0 0		Four wardens, quarantine, &c. - - - -	75 0 0	
Total estimated revenue		405 10 0	Miscellaneous expenditure	60 0 0	
A tax of 9*s.* 4*d.* per cent. on land will give - -	- - -	728 0 0	Total estimated expenditure - - -		2,461 0 6
			Public debt of 1856 - -	- - -	653 15 6
		3,113 10 0			3,114 16 0

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Sub-Enclosure 5 in Enclosure 4 in No. 18.

RETURN of the POPULATION of the ISLAND of MONTSERRAT, taken by the last CENSUS in 1851.

—	Males. St. Anthony.	St. George.	St. Peter.	St. Patrick.	Towns.	Total Males.	Females. St. Anthony.	St. George.	St. Peter.	St. Patrick.	Towns.	Total Females.	Grand Total.
Under 16 years of age -	485	323	432	157	246	1,643	473	334	394	201	311	1,713	—
Between 16 and 45 - -	206	183	190	111	182	872	308	276	289	156	371	1,400	—
Between 45 and 60 - -	144	149	146	30	52	521	174	155	163	33	75	600	—
Above 60 - - -	49	15	24	11	14	113	66	20	43	18	44	191	—
						3,149						3,904	7,053

Number of tax-payers in the parish of St. Anthony -	69	18	Tax-payers pay -	£1,433
Ditto ditto St. George -	19	22	Ditto -	70
Ditto ditto St. Peter -	66	147	Ditto -	135
Ditto ditto St. Patrick -	20	134	Ditto -	110
Ditto for towns - - - -	147	321		£1,748
	321	6,732 untaxed.		
		7,053		

Sub-Enclosure 6 in Enclosure 4 in No. 18.

No. 1.

RETURN of SUGAR ESTATES and LOTS of LAND SOLD under the PROPERTY TAX ACT.

Property.	Year.	Nature of Estate.	Cultivated, or otherwise.	Value in Levy Bill Sterling. £ s. d.	Tax Sterling. £ s. d.	Amount sold for Sterling. £ s. d.
Gerrald's Estate - -	1854	Sugar Estate - -	Uncultivated -	3,100 0 0	23 5 0	25 0 0
Silver Hill - - -	„	Pasture Estate - -	Ditto -	200 0 0	1 10 0	0 13 6
Morris's - - -	1855	Corn Estate - -	Cultivated -	444 0 0	3 6 7	4 1 0
Hell's Gate - - -	„	Pasture Estate - -	Uncultivated -	154 0 0	1 3 2	1 5 4
West Hill - - -	„	Provision ground -	Cultivated -	75 0 0	0 11 3	4 5 0
A lot of land - -	1856	Provision ground -	Uncultivated -	50 0 0	0 6 3	0 7 8
*Gerrald's Estate - -	1857	Sugar Estate - -	Uncultivated -	3,100 0 0	19 7 6	10 0 0
*Banks - - -	„	Pasture Estate - -	Cultivated -	165 0 0	1 0 7½	1 0 0
*Morris's - - -	„	Corn Estate - -	Uncultivated -	444 0 0	2 15 6	2 0 0
*Cove - - - -	„	Corn, Cotton, Estate -	Cultivated -	444 0 0	2 15 6	2 0 0
Silver Hill - - -	„	Pasture Estate - -	Uncultivated -	200 0 0	1 5 0	1 1 0

* Properties purchased by the Loan Commissioners, but charged with large amounts of loan.
Note.—No properties sold by virtue of private executions between the years 1854 and 1857.

Sub-Enclosure 7 in Enclosure 4 in No. 18.

No. 2.

RETURN of HOUSES and UNBUILT PORTIONS of LAND in the TOWN of PLYMOUTH SOLD under the PROPERTY TAX ACT.

Nature of Property.	Year.	Value in Tax Bill. £ s. d.	Amount of Tax. £ s. d.	Amount sold for. £ s. d.
Unbuilt portion of land - - - - - -	1855	44 0 0	0 6 7	4 5 0
Unbuilt portion of land - - - - - -	1856	50 0 0	0 3 9	30 0 0
*Unbuilt portion of land - - - - - -	1857	30 0 0	0 2 3	0 2 6
House and land - - - - - - -	„	244 0 0	0 18 3½	1 0 0
†Unbuilt portion of land - - - - - -	„	50 0 0	0 3 9	20 5 0

* Purchased by the Loan Commissioners.
† Properties sold by consent of owners.
Note.—No real property sold by virtue of private executions between the years 1854 and 1857.

Enclosure 5 in No. 18.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Mr. President RUSHWORTH to Governor HAMILTON.

(No. 22, Executive.)

SIR, Montserrat, April 15, 1857.

1. HAVING at the commencement of this year, whilst perusing the journals of the House of Assembly, had my attention drawn to a tabular statement framed in the year 1848, for the purpose of contrasting the number of official appointments in the island with that of the population, and also the cost of the government expenditure with the gross value of the productions, I have on the receipt of your Excellency's late Despatch No. 5, of the 23rd ultimo, used my best endeavours to arrive at the accuracy and real nature of the observations and deductions placed on these official records, and as the statement contained in the recent communication of your Excellency is based on a like principle, I have had a return prepared for the year 1857, in a similar shape to the one laid before the Assembly in 1848.

2. I annex also the two returns specified by your Excellency respecting the assessment of the land tax on the estates, and the rate of taxation in proportion to the population. To these I have added some further particulars which may be of interest to your Excellency so far as they regard the present actual position of a large portion of the proprietary body in the island.

3. As some of the deductions made from the returns prepared in 1848, and embodied in the document laid in that year before the Assembly, as also in the statement recently made to your Excellency, are based on the number of persons contained in the Marshal's Jury List, who are asserted to represent all the males between the ages of 21 and 65, who are capable of reading and writing throughout the island, I have made particular inquiry as to the accuracy of that remark.

The Marshal, whose duty it is to summon the jurors, has informed me that such conclusions are drawn from very insufficient data, and that it has always been his custom to summon the most intelligent persons between the ages specified in the Jury Act, but the qualification of reading and writing does not at all guide him in the selection.

4. The mode of raising a large portion of the revenue of the island, by a tax on real property, has been in operation for many years. From the information I have been enabled to gather on this subject, it was the custom previous to the abolition of slavery, to raise, among other imposts, a tax upon the proprietary body according to the number of slaves attached to each estate, and this system continued in force until the year 1835.

5. In 1836, a valuation was made by the Legislature on all real property, to supply the place of the old poll tax on the slaves, and at that period I learn the valuation of the different estates was chiefly based on the amounts that they had formerly paid under the old system when rated in accordance to the number of their slaves.

6. This valuation has remained in force with, I believe, but little modification since 1836, and the last Property Tax Act was framed on that basis.

7. That many of the properties, like those mentioned in the statement annexed by your Excellency, are now assessed beyond their actual value, there is no doubt.

This especially is the case where estates have been dismantled and allowed to go out of sugar cultivation, the rates now laid upon them being quite disproportionate to their actual worth.

Looking to the condition of these properties, I consider a valuation most desirable, not only as an act of fairness to the present occupants, but also as a measure of general utility to the island, for I think it probable where a deduction is made in their estimated values for the purpose of taxation, with the present price of West India produce, parties might be found willing to enter on their cultivation.

8. Shortly after my arrival, my attention was directed to the mode of assessment in the island, and wishing if possible to arrive at the true percentage, which would on a re-valuation be necessary to be imposed on the actual value of the real property so as to give the same amount of revenue as then derived by the tax of three quarters per cent. on the estimated value in

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the Levy Bill, I appointed a committee to consider the best mode of revising the valuation made in 1836, but no disposition was evinced to enter at all upon the subject, and the matter has remained in abeyance till the present period.

9. With respect to estates in actual sugar cultivation, it has been observed to me that the difference between the rate at which they stand assessed in the Levy Bill, and their actual value, is not so very great, regard being had to the existing state of the sugar market. Upon this point it is hard to arrive at any very accurate data. The only mode I know of testing the question is by taking the price of sugar in 1836, when the valuation was fixed; for at that period I should imagine some reference must have been given to the value and quantity of the produce that could be derived from each estate, and the price of that article, the staple produce of these islands, at the present day.

At the foot of the Return, No. 8, your Excellency will perceive that the difference between the two periods is but slight.

In 1836 the price of Sugar from British plantations, exclusive of duty, appears from the "London Gazette" to be averaged that year as 40*s.* 10*d.* per cwt.; and in 1857 the Treasurer, by the latest commercial accounts from England, calculates the average price at 38*s.* per cwt. This last-named amount, from a set of tables I have before me, compiled from the "London Gazettes," is higher, I find than any of the years preceding 1836, till I come to 1825, when the average price is set for that year at 38*s.* 6*d.* per cwt.

If a fair conclusion may be drawn from the above data, I do not consider that the holders of estates at present in sugar cultivation in this island are so arbitrarily taxed in these assessments as represented by the writer of the recent communication to your Excellency.

10. With a view of testing whether the recent change abolishing import and export duties, and increasing in their stead the amount of land tax from three-quarters to one and a quarter per cent., is really operating injuriously to the proprietary body engaged in sugar cultivation, I have had a table prepared, showing the land tax at three-quarters per cent. and the export duty charged on the several estates in 1855, and the amount now imposed for land tax in 1857, at one and a quarter per cent.

In directing your Excellency's attention to that return, marked No. 4, I would only remark that there is no sugar estate in the island the cultivation of which is not susceptible of vast improvement.

Had I been enabled to ascertain the amount of the import duty paid on the separate estates, I could then have placed the comparison in a clearer light.

11. With respect to the other points adverted to in the copy of the statement enclosed by your Excellency for my observations, I may remark that in my recent report on the general statistics of the island, I have already alluded to the absence of any law either regulating the franchise or enforcing the registration of electors. At the last general election, held in October 1853, four hundred votes were taken, but many of the voters exercised their privilege of voting in each of the five districts into which the island is divided.

The estimated number of freeholders for the year 1856 has been reckoned by the Marshal at 228.

12. Having, moreover, by this mail, entered fully into the financial condition of the island, I do not consider it necessary to occupy further your Excellency's attention by returning to the subject.

13. I have, in conclusion, to observe, that on a careful review of the annual reports made on the condition of the island for several years past, it appears that the decline of Montserrat, after the emancipation, was of a far more marked and decided character than that experienced in any of the neighbouring communities; and in the years 1846, 1847, and 1848 the adverse circumstances of the island appear in the strongest light. On reference to the report that accompanied the Blue Book of the island for 1847, each succeeding observation in that document is directed to note the downward tendency of the colony in all respects, financial, agricultural, and commercial, and there is appended to that report a return of the Provost-Marshal, showing the list of estates sold by him during the years 1845, 1846, and 1847, and these tables certainly depicted a state of such general insolvency that very naturally gave occasion for the doubt expressed by Governor Higginson, whether even an incorporation with Antigua would rescue Montserrat from the ruin with which she was threatened.

That a gradual improvement has been going on for some years is indisputable; and the present condition in 1857 is far different from that so strongly commented on in 1847, and as a contrast to the return of the Marshal in 1847, showing the levies made by him for taxes in that and the preceding two years, I may annex to this despatch a return made by the Marshal, giving like information from the year 1854 to the present period.

The estates sold during the last-named period are, with hardly an exception, those that have been thrown on the public owing to the default of private borrowers under the Loan Act. These several properties are now in the hands of the Loan Commissioners, and are awaiting an Act of the Legislature, so that authority may be given for their being offered for public sale.

The two last assessments of the Property Tax have been paid up without any occasion of resorting to the harsh measure of distraint, and the Marshal further reports that no properties have been sold by virtue of private execution between the years 1854 and 1857.

Notwithstanding, however, the advancement that has been made in the condition and prospects of the island, the same evils that have been remarked on so forcibly in former years are now also in existence; and where so large a portion of the landed proprietors are without capital sufficient for the proper cultivation of their estates, and further, without the means of obtaining it, the work of restoration to the state of prosperity, said to have been formerly enjoyed by the proprietary body of Montserrat, must be both gradual and slow; and many of the observations made by Governor Higginson in the year 1850 are still applicable, and many obstacles still have to be overcome before the valuable resources of the island can be said to be fairly developed and judiciously applied.

I have, &c.

His Excellency
the Governor-in-Chief.

(Signed) EDW. E. RUSHWORTH.

Sub-Enclosure 1 in Enclosure 5 in No. 18.

RETURN of all OFFICIAL APPOINTMENTS held in MONTSERRAT, with the AMOUNT of SALARIES or other CHARGES for each OFFICE or DEPARTMENT, distinguishing the AMOUNT paid by the COLONY from that paid by the IMPERIAL GOVERNMENT, or otherwise, in STERLING MONEY.

Office or Department.	Number of Persons holding Official Appointments.	Amount paid by the Colony.		Amount paid by the Imperial Government.	Total Expenditure.
		Salaries.	Other Expenses.		
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Executive	2	- - -	75 11 1¼	544 8 10½	619 19 11¾
Legislative Council	7	—	—	—	—
„ Assembly	12	—	—	—	—
„ Clerk and Sergeant-at-arms	2	164 8 10½	- - -	- - -	164 8 10½
Judicial establishment	4	550 0 0	4 8 10½	- - -	554 8 10½
Colonial Secretary, Clerk of Crown, and of the Council, and Registrar of Deeds	1	200 0 0	- - -	- - -	200 0 0
Provost Marshal	1	200 0 0	- - -	- - -	200 0 0
Church establishment, including schools	11	469 8 10½	64 17 9¼	460 0 0	994 6 7¾
Poor-house and lunatic asylum	2	40 0 0	444 8 10½	- - -	484 8 10½
Fort	2	40 0 0	8 17 9¼	- - -	48 17 9¼
Jail	2	80 16 10½	111 2 2½	- - -	191 19 1
Coroners	2	33 6 8	- - -	- - -	33 6 8
Medical officer	1	88 17 9¼	- - -	- - -	88 17 9¼
Customs, including collection of colonial tariff	2	272 10 9½	- - -	358 13 5½	631 4 3
Post-office	1	- - -	11 2 2½	20 0 0	31 2 2½
Stipendiary Justice	1	- - -	- - -	450 0 0	450 0 0
Justices of the Peace, not holding other official appointments	5	—	—	—	—
Treasurer	1	173 6 8	4 8 10½	- - -	177 15 6½
Loan Commissioners, including interest	3	230 0 0	150 0 0	- - -	380 0 0
Clerk of the Magistrates	1	26 13 4	8 17 9	- - -	35 11 1
Masters in Chancery	2	—	—	—	—
Public notaries	3	—	—	—	—
Constables	8	- - -	66 13 4	- - -	66 13 4
Miscellaneous expenses, not included in the above	–	- - -	44 8 10½	- - -	44 8 10½
Casual Receiver	1	—	—	—	—
	77	2,569 9 10¼	994 17 7¾	1,833 2 4	5,397 9 10

NOTE.—The number of official appointments is 77; but in consequence of one individual holding two, and, in some cases three offices, the number actually employed is 62, of whom 45 are paid officers.

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DEDUCTIONS FROM THE FOREGOING TABLE.

There is one official for every 96 of the whole population.

There is one paid official for every 164 of the whole population.

The proportion of paid officials to all the males over 21 years of age who are capable of reading and writing is as 2 to 6.

The proportion of official appointments to the males as above is as 7 to 10.

The expense of the present Government establishment is 14*s.* 7*d.* per head of the whole population, of which 10*s.* sterling is raised in the Colony, and the remainder from other sources.

The expense of the Government of the Island is 5,364*l.* sterling, and is to the gross value of the whole production as 1 to 1·4.

The amount of the expense of the Government paid by the Colony is to the value of the whole production as 10 to 21·5, or nearly one half.

The half of the population of Montserrat is under 16 years, in Great Britain one-third.

Sub-Enclosure 2 in Enclosure 5 in No. 18.

RETURN of all OFFICIAL APPOINTMENTS held in MONTSERRAT, with the AMOUNT of SALARIES or other CHARGES for each OFFICE or DEPARTMENT, distinguishing the AMOUNT paid by the COLONY from that paid by the IMPERIAL GOVERNMENT, or otherwise.

Office or Department.	Number of Officers.	Number of Persons holding Official Appointments.	Amount paid by the Colony.		Amount paid by the Imperial Government.	Total Expenditure.
			Salaries.	Other Expenses.		
			£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Executive	1	1	- - -	8 17 10	500 0 0	508 17 10
Legislative—						
Council	–	6	—	—	—	—
Assembly	–	12	—	—	—	—
Clerk and Sergeant-at-arms	–	2	112 0 0	- - -	- - -	112 0 0
Judicial establishment	3	3	281 5 0	- - -	- - -	281 5 0
Colonial Secretary, Clerk of the Crown and of the Council, Registrar of Deeds, Controller of Customs, and Treasurer	6	1	210 0 0	- - -	- - -	210 0 0
Provost Marshal	1	1	120 0 0	- - -	- - -	120 0 0
Church establishment, including schools and schoolmasters	10	10	227 8 10	- - -	23 0 0	250 8 10
Poor-house and lunatic asylum	3	3	90 0 0	380 0 0	- - -	470 0 0
Jail	2	2	30 0 0	39 0 0	- - -	69 0 0
Coroners	2	2	27 0 0	- - -	- - -	27 0 0
Post-office	1	1	- - -	- - -	20 0 0	20 0 0
Stipendiary Justice	1	1	- - -	- - -	450 0 0	450 0 0
Justices of the Peace (not holding other official appointments)	5	5	—	—	—	—
Masters in Chancery	3	3	—	—	—	—
Loan Commissioners	–	3	60 0 0	- - -	- - -	60 0 0
Public notaries	1	1	—	—	—	—
Constables	10	10	—	—	—	—
	49	67	1,157 13 10	427 17 10	993 0 0	2,578 11 8

DEDUCTIONS from RETURN No. 2.

There is one official for every 105 of the population.

There is one paid official for every 235 of the population.

The proportion of paid officials to all males over 21, who are capable of reading and writing, cannot be ascertained, the return of 1848 being evidently based on insufficient data.

The proportion of official appointments to the males, as above, cannot be ascertained.

The expense of the present establishment is 9*s.* 9¼*d.* per head, of which 7*s.* is raised from the colony, and the remainder from other sources.

The expense of the Government of the island is 3,443*l.*, and is less than one-fifth of the gross value of the whole productions.

The amount of the Government expenses paid by the colony is 2,450*l.*, and is less than 1*s.* 7*d.* of the gross value of the whole productions.

Nearly one-half of the population is under 16 years of age.

Sub-Enclosure 3 in Enclosure 5 in No. 18.

RETURN showing the VALUATION of ESTATES on the MONTSERRAT TAX ROLL, with the AMOUNT of TAXATION at ONE and a QUARTER per CENT., specifying also such ESTATES as have been SOLD within the last FOUR YEARS, the AMOUNT realized at such SALES, and the AMOUNT of PER-CENTAGE on FEE SIMPLE VALUATION, as per Sale, paid yearly for TAXES.

Name of Estate.	No. of Acres.	How cultivated at present.	Valuation in Sterling.	Amount of Tax.	Sold within the last Four Years; Date of Sale.	By whom purchased.	Amount realized at Sale.	Amount of Earthquake Loan charged thereon.	Amount of Per-centage on Sum realised for yearly Taxes.	Remarks.
			£	£ s. d.			£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
Reed's Hill and Spring	350	Sugar	4,445	55 11 3	- - -	- - - - -	- - -	Nil.	—	
Broderick's	300	Sugar	4,445	55 11 3	June 1855 -	Thos. Connell - -	1,400 0 0	Nil.	3 19 4	
Amersham's	200	Sugar	3,352	41 18 0	- - -	- - - - -	- - -	Nil.	—	
Parson's	190	Sugar	3,110	38 17 6	- - -	- - - - -	- - -	100 0 0	—	
Dagnam's	200	Sugar	5,000	62 10 0	- - -	- - - - -	- - -	500 0 0	—	
Grove	90	Sugar	2,665	33 6 3	—	—	—	—	—	
Richmond	350	Sugar	3,966	49 11 6	—	—	—	—	—	
Ffrye's	200	Sugar	2,665	33 6 3	—	—	—	—	—	
Bransby's	572	Sugar	3,110	38 17 6	Aug. 1854 -	C. A. Chambers -	81 0 0	630 0 0	5 9 4	
Nugent's	150	Sugar	2,220	27 15 0	Nov. 1856 -	P. Burns - -	500 0 0	Nil.	5 11 0	Dismantled in 1856.
Balham's	250	Sugar	1,552	19 8 0	Feb. 1853 -	R. Piper - -	100 0 0	600 0 0	2 15 5	
Syms and Lee's	350	Sugar	3,996	49 11 6	- - -	- - - - -	- - -	Nil.	—	
Week's	300	Sugar	2,665	33 6 3	- - -	- - - - -	- - -	Nil.	—	
Webb's	300	Sugar	3,352	41 18 0	Jan. 1856 -	W. E. Goodall -	800 0 0	Nil.	5 4 6	
Gage's	450	Sugar	3,110	38 17 6	- - -	- - - - -	- - -	Nil.	—	
St. George's Hill	276	Provision	220	2 15 0	- - -	- - - - -	- - -	Nil.	—	
Blake's	600	Sugar	880	11 0 0	Sept. 1856 -	C. Griffin - -	38 0 0	450 0 0	2 6 0	
Old Northward	175	Sugar	1,000	12 10 0	Oct. 1856 -	J. Andrews - -	350 0 0	222 0 0	2 3 8	
Gerrald's	200	Uncultivated	3,110	38 15 0	- - -	- - - - -	- - -	440 0 0	- - -	In the Loan Commissioners' possession.
Sweeney's	150	Do.	330	4 2 6	- - -	- - - - -	- - -	265 0 0	—	
Barzey's	350	Sugar	2,264	28 6 0	1854 - -	J. Yearwood - -	110 0 0	Nil.	25 14 6	Sold under Loan Encumbered Act, free from all liabilities.
Folly and Carr's Bay	350	Sugar	3,352	41 18 0	1854 - -	R. Piper - -	210 0 0	Nil.	19 19 0	
Lawyer's	1,500	Limes	2,000	25 0 0	- - -	- - - - -	- - -	Nil.	—	
Needsmust	500	Limes	3,352	41 18 0	1856 - -	- - - - -	300 0 0	- - -	13 19 0	
Old Road	150	Sugar	3,110	38 17 6	- - -	- - - - -	- - -	Nil.	—	
Waterwork	600	Sugar	3,110	38 17 6	- - -	- - - - -	- - -	Nil.	—	
Tar River	—	Sugar	2,665	28 6 3	- - -	- - - - -	- - -	1,850 0 0	—	
White's	180	Sugar	2,665	28 6 3	- - -	- - - - -	- - -	90 0 0	—	
Hermitage	1,500	Sugar	4,440	55 10 0	- - -	- - - - -	- - -	Nil.	—	

RETURN of the VALUATION of ESTATES, &c.—*continued.*

Name of Estate.	No. of Acres.	How cultivated at present.	Valuation in Sterling.	Amount of Tax.	Sold within the last Four Years; Date of Sale.	By whom purchased.	Amount realized at Sale.	Amount of Earthquake Loan charged thereon.	Amount of Per-centage on Sum realized for yearly Taxes.	Remarks.
			£	£ s. d.			£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
Paradise - - -	300	Sugar -	2,220	27 15 0	1854 - -	E. Somper - -	350 0 0	Nil.	7 1 5	Sold under Loan Encumbered Act, free from all liabilities.
Streatham's - -	600	Sugar -	3,110	38 15 0	- - -	- - - - -	- - -	Nil.	—	
Twitt's and Bethel's	500	Sugar -	6,880	86 0 0	- - -	- - - - -	- - -	1,850 0 0	—	
Harris - - -	300	—	2,000	25 0 0	1855 - -	J. R. Somper - -	100 0 0	Nil.	25 0 0	Sold under Loan Encumbered Act, free from all liabilities.
Farm - - -	300	Sugar -	3,352	41 18 0	- - -	- - - - -	- - -	Nil.	—	
Trant's - - -	800	Pasture -	3,504	43 6 0	1854 - -	T. M. Howes - -	27 0 0	Nil.	160 7 4	Sold for default of taxes, the property of a minor.
Bugby Hole - -	200	Do. -	888	11 2 0	—	—	—	—	—	
German's Bay -	150	Uncultivated	1,552	19 8 0	—	—	—	—	—	
Morris - - -	200	Corn -	444	5 11 0	- - -	- - - - -	- - -	223 0 0	- - -	In possession of Loan Commissioners.
Bushy Park - -	200	Corn -	330	4 2 6	- - -	- - - - -	- - -	Nil.	—	
Cove and Power's -	800	Corn -	534	6 13 6	- - -	- - - - -	- - -	150 0 0	- - -	Ditto.
Galloway's - -	300	Uncultivated	3,110	38 17 6	- - -	- - - - -	- - -	150 0 0	—	
Forgus Mountains -	250	Provision -	500	6 5 0	—	—	—	—	—	
Roache's - -	2,000	Sugar -	5,330	66 12 6	- - -	- - - - -	- - -	500 0 0	—	
Further Cove - -	200	Uncultivated	444	5 11 0	- - -	- - - - -	- - -	Nil.	—	
The Hope - -	250	Provision -	222	2 15 6	1856 - -	H. Palmer - -	100 0 0	Nil.	2 15 6	
Duberry's - -	200	Limes -	666	8 6 6	- - -	- - - - -	- - -	Nil.	—	
Fogarthy's - -	300	Uncultivated	352	4 8 0	—	—	—	—	—	
Virgin Island - -	30	Provisions -	110	1 7 6	1856 - -	McAllen - -	12 0 0	Nil.	11 9 2	
Baker Hill - -	185	Do. -	444	5 11 0	—	—	—	—	—	
Banks - - -	55	Do. -	165	2 1 3	—	—	—	—	—	
Rendezvous - -	100	Uncultivated	660	8 5 0	—	—	—	—	—	
Valentine Gut -	80	Do. -	110	1 7 6	March 1857 -	—	—	—	—	
Silver Hill - -	250	Do. -	200	2 10 0	March 1857 -	H. M. Furlonge -	1 0 0	- - -	250 0 0	
Old Quaws - -	150	Do. -	154	1 18 6	—	—	—	—	—	
Hell's Gate - -	200	Do. -	154	1 18 6	—	—	—	—	—	
Thatched Valley -	100	Provisions -	100	1 5 0	1854 - -	A. Sweeny - -	13 8 0	Nil.	—	

The valuation of the above estates was fixed in the year 1856.
The average price of British plantation sugar in 1836 was (exclusive of duty) 40*s.* 10*d.* per cwt.
The average price of British plantation sugar at the date of this return is (exclusive of duty) 38*s.* per cwt.

Sub-Enclosure 4 in Enclosure 5 in No. 18.

RETURN of TAXATION on SUGAR ESTATES.

ESTATE.	Land Tax at ¾ of a pound per cent. paid in 1855.	Estimate of Export Duty.	Total.	Land Tax at 25 per cent. now imposed.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Reed's Hill and Spring - - -	33 6 9	8 0 0	41 6 9	61 6 0
Broderick's - - - - - -	33 6 9	15 0 0	48 6 9	55 11 3
Amersham's - - - - - -	25 2 9½	45 0 0	70 2 9½	41 18 0
Dagnam and Roache's - - -	77 9 6	84 0 0	161 9 6	129 2 6
Grove, Richmond, and Ffrye's - -	69 19 6	56 0 0	125 19 6	117 4 0
Bransby's - - - - - -	23 6 6	6 0 0	29 6 6	38 17 6
Nugent's - - - - - - -	16 3 0	10 0 0	26 3 0	27 15 0
Balham's and Braid's - - -	36 14 7½	21 0 0	57 14 7½	61 6 0
Synis and Lee's - - - - -	29 19 4½	18 0 0	47 19 4½	49 19 10
Week's - - - - - - -	19 19 10	12 0 0	31 19 10	33 6 3
Webb's - - - - - - -	25 2 9½	15 0 0	40 2 9½	41 18 0
Gage's - - - - - - -	23 6 6	20 0 0	43 6 6	38 17 6
Blake's - - - - - - -	6 12 0	9 0 0	15 12 0	11 0 0
Old Northward - - - -	7 10 0	5 0 0	12 10 0	12 0 0
Barzey's - - - - - - -	16 19 7	5 0 0	21 19 7	28 6 0
Needsmust - - - - -	25 2 9½	Nil	25 2 9½	41 18 0
Old Road, Waterwork, and Farm -	71 15 9½	18 0 0	89 15 9½	118 13 0
Tar River, White's Hermitage, Paradise, Streatham's, Farrel's, and Bugby Hole - - -	152 11 8	90 0 0	242 11 8	245 5 0
Taitt's and Bethel's - - - -	51 12 0	36 0 0	87 12 0	86 0 0
Harris - - - - - - -	15 0 0	Nil	15 0 0	25 0 0
Trant's - - - - - - -	26 5 7	Nil	26 5 7	43 16 0
German's Bay - - - - -	11 12 10	Nil	11 12 10	19 8 0
Galway's - - - - - - -	23 6 6	3 0 0	29 6 6	38 17 6
Parson's - - - - - - -	23 6 6	23 0 0	46 6 6	38 17 6

Sub-Enclosure 5 in Enclosure 5 in No. 18.

MONTSERRAT.

RETURN of CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT paid from the IMPERIAL TREASURY in 1848.
No. 1.

Office.	Salary from British Treasury.	Fees and Colonial Allowances.	Total.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
President administering the Government	—	118 Fees.	—
	500 0 0	9 Stationery.	627 0 0
Stipendiary Magistrate for House Rent and Allowances	300 0 0	—	—
	150 0 0	—	450 0 0
Postmaster	20 0 0	—	20 0 0
Collector of Customs, vide Return No. Allowances	300 0 0	51 9 8	351 9 8
Clerk and Landing Waiter	150 0 0	—	150 0 0
By Return in the Blue Book for 1848 the officiating Minister of St. George's received	50 0 0	—	—
With other allowances for fees, house rent, and portion of the stipend during the absence of the Rector, amounting to	—	181 6 8¾	231 6 8¾
	1,470 0 0	359 16 4¾	1,829 16 4¾

RETURN of CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT paid from the IMPERIAL TREASURY in 1857.
No. 2.

Salary from British Treasury.	Fees and other Colonial Allowances received in 1856.	Remarks.
£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
—	6 13 3	For Stationery.
500 0 0	31 15 3½	
—	—	
450 0 0	—	
20 0 0	—	
—	—	
—	—	
970 0 0	38 8 6½	

RETURN of OFFICES in the CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT of MONTSERRAT, to which no Salary is attached, and not included in Returns No. 1 and 2.

Office.	Amount of Emoluments from Fees, &c.
Receiver-General of the Queen's Casual Escheats	Nil.
Judge-Surrogate of the Court of Vice Admiralty held by the Puisne Judge	Nil.
3 Notaries Public	—
2 Masters in Chancery, one received	30*l.* for fees.

Return of Civil Establishment paid from the Colonial Treasury in 1848. No. 3.						Return of Salaries and Fees according to the rates of 1856. No. 4.					
Office.	Total Salary.	How derived.		Total Salary.	How derived.		Saving effected between 1848 and 1857, as far as the Treasury is concerned.	Remarks.
		Fees and other Emoluments.	From Colonial Treasury.		From Fees and other Emoluments.	From Colonial Treasury.		
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
Island Secretary - } Held by one person Clerk of Crown, and - } Held by one person Registrar of Deeds - } Held by one person	- -	26 0 0	- -	- -	23 15 0	—	—	
	246 0 0	- -	200 0 0	—	—	—	—	
	- -	20 0 0	- -	- -	52 10 0	- -	- -	Held by one officer since 1854.
Treasurer - - - - - -	128 8 9	4*l.* for stationery included.	128 8 9	286 5 0	- -	210 0 0	118 8 9	
Provost Marshal - - - -	233 0 0	33 0 0	200 0 0	187 0 0	67 0 0	120 0 0	80 0 0	
3 Loan Commissioners - - -	230 0 0	- -	230 0 0	63 6 0	3 6 0	60 0 0	170 0 0	
Clerk of Assembly - - - -	145 6 8	12*l.* for stationery included.	145 6 8	100 0 0	- -	100 0 0	45 6 8	
Clerk of Magistrates - - - -	22 4 5	- -	22 4 5	- -	- -	- -	22 4 5	Abolished.
Captain Gunner of Fort Barrington -	29 6 8¾	- -	29 6 8¾	- -	- -	- -	29 6 8¾	Abolished.
Collector of Customs — See Return No. 1 - - - - - - -	- -	5 per cent. on the collection of tariff.	51 9 8	- -	- -	- -	51 9 8	Abolished.
Chief Justice - - - - -	156 4 8	6 4 8 Fees.	150 0 0	150 16 0	0 16 0	150 0 0	—	
Puisne Justice - - - - -	126 0 0	26 0 0 Fees.	100 0 0	- -	- -	- -	100 0 0	Performed by Stipendiary Magistrate gratuitously.
Attorney General - - - -	150 0 0	- -	150 0 0	- -	- -	- -	150 0 0	Abolished.
Queen's Counsel - - - -	150 0 0	- -	150 0 0	131 5 0	- -	131 5 0	18 15 0	
Two Coroners - - - - -	33 7 0	Divided between them.	33 7 0	26 8 10	- -	26 8 10	6 18 2	
Rector of St. Anthony and St. Patrick	352 4 4½	30*l.* for fees. 44 8 10 House rent. 100*l.* from the Bishop.	222 4 4½	317 7 6	9*l.* 12*s.* fees. 100*l.* bishop.	207 15 6	14 8 10½	
Rector of St. Peter's - - - -	277 15 6½	100*l.* from the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel.	177 15 6½	- -	- -	- -	177 15 6½	Vacant and unprovided for.
House rent for Minister of St. George's	29 6 8¾	- -	29 6 8¾	- -	- -	- -	29 6 8¾	Unprovided for.
Parish Clerks - - - - -	60 0 0	- -	60 0 0	- -	- -	- -	60 0 0	Abolished.
	2,369 4 10½	341 4 8	2,079 9 10½	1,262 8 4	256 19 0	1,005 9 4	1,074 0 6½	

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Encl. 6 in No. 18.

Enclosure 6 in No. 18.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Mr. President RUSHWORTH to Governor HAMILTON.

(No. 23, Legislative.)

SIR, Montserrat, April 16, 1857.

1. As I have in my separate despatches, Nos. 20 and 22, replied to your Excellency's recent inquiries upon the state of the finances, and on the present mode of assessment of the property tax on real estate in this island, so I now consider it better for arrangement and clearness to answer the remaining portion of your Excellency's despatch with regard to the proceedings of the House of Assembly in this present communication that accompanies the copies of the Minutes of both branches of the Legislature at their meeting, held on the 7th inst.

2. In the first place, with respect to the action of the Assembly in the matter of providing a sufficient revenue, I regret to say that no disposition has yet been evinced in making any provision for the liquidation of the debt due the 31st December; and I fear that it only remains for me to repeat the observations already communicated to your Excellency, that until the question of the salaries of the public officers is disposed of, there is but little hope of any real attempt being made on this head by the Assembly.

3. With regard to the other portions of your Excellency's inquiry, as to the cause of no business being done after the introduction of certain resolutions at the meeting of the Assembly on the 20th February last, I have ascertained from one of the members who was present at the meeting, and who took an active part in the proceedings, that after the appointment of Committees for adjusting the public accounts and reporting on the financial condition of the island, almost the whole remainder of the sitting was occupied in a discussion upon the insertion in the Levy Bill of the names of several parties who, either by omission from the schedule when the Act was passed in 1853, had thus accidentally escaped the impost, or having purchased freeholds since that date had rendered themselves liable for the extent of land, of which they are now in possession. The discussion on this point having continued some time, and no chance appearing of any definite action being come to thereon, two of the members left the House, and only seven members, the exact quorum, were left in the Chamber. The resolutions were then brought forward, and the parties who were in their favour having at that moment a majority in the House hoped to have gone at once to a division; this being resisted, no other result was gained than the prolongation of an unprofitable discussion till the meeting broke up.

4. In the interval between the 20th of February and the 7th of this month (although the Legislature had been twice summoned), no meeting could be formed in the Assembly in consequence of the members of that body not attending on either occasion in sufficient number to form a quorum.

5. However, during that period the Committee appointed from both branches of the Legislature for examining and reporting upon the financial condition of the island had met and prepared their report, which your Excellency will find at length in the proceedings of the Legislature accompanying this despatch.

As the majority of that Committee had reported in favour of the reimposition of the tariff duties, a full attendance was expected in both branches of the Legislature on the day fixed for the meeting, the 7th inst.

6. On that day there was a full attendance at the Council Board, and in the Assembly every member, with the exception of one absent from the island, was in his place.

In the Council Chamber the Board was equally divided, three voting for the confirmation of the Report, and three for its rejection. In the Assembly the subject was discussed at great length, but the final division could not be arrived at, and the further consideration of the Report was adjourned till the next meeting.

I understand that had a vote been taken, the Assembly would on that day have been divided thus; six for the rejection, and five for the confirmation of the Report; and that fact having been ascertained, the minority, by an adjournment, staved off the settlement of the question.

7. To this meeting I submitted the necessary modifications to be made in the Bill for the repairs of the highways of the island, and the several amendments were inserted in exact accordance, as I understand, with the instructions conveyed on the subject in your Excellency's recent despatch.

The Bill, however, requiring to be engrossed again, could not be sent to the Council on that day.

This Bill being now in exact conformity with your Excellency's instructions, I hope I may receive by the next mail your Excellency's permission to accord the assent of the Executive thereto, as, from the failure of the Assembly to form a meeting yesterday, I am unable to transmit by this opportunity the amended copy, as I had expected.

8. On the 7th instant the Assembly also passed a Liquor License Bill through all its stages. The revenue that may be expected from this measure is about 120*l.* a-year. Since that day I have learnt that the Speaker, in reading over the copy engrossed by the Clerk, has discovered some legal defects, which the House will have to amend before the Bill can be sent to the Council.

9. With respect to the officers' salaries, the only Bill that has yet been entered upon is the one relating to the Provost-Marshal.

The measure, however, passed by the two branches was defective in one most important particular, as it had reference solely to the present holder, and made no provision whatever for the office itself. The omission accidentally escaped the notice of the Council, and I have returned the Bill for amendment.

Should the Bill, unaltered in all other respects save placing the office on a fixed and permanent footing, be returned to me, the salary of the office would be 100*l.* a-year, with all the fees and emoluments now attached to the same. By such measure a reduction of 20*l.* a-year would be made from the present occupant, taking date from the 1st of last October. As I understand that a reduction at the same rate is likely to be observed towards the Colonial Secretary and Registrar of Deeds, in respect of the salary assigned to those appointments, also allowing him to retain all his fees and emoluments, I should like to be favoured with your Excellency's opinions thereon. In the case of Mr. E. Baynes, by a measure founded on that basis, his position would be as follows:—Colonial Secretary and Registrar of Deeds, 100*l.* a-year, fees, 80*l.*; Treasurer, 50*l.*; in all 230*l.* His former position, previous to October 1854, when the Treasurer's office was given to his charge, was, Colonial Secretary and Registrar, 120*l.*; fees, about 80*l.*; in all, 200*l.* After October 1854, as Treasurer, 90*l.*; in all, 210*l.* from the Local Treasury, and 80*l.* for fees.

10. Although some progress was made in the transaction of public business, at the meeting held on the 7th instant, yet each succeeding day only affords some additional proof of the complete unfitness of the present Assembly to perform the work that the remaining portion of the community have placed in their hands.

Not only is there great difficulty to secure a due attendance of members to form a meeting, but owing to the insubordination of some of that body, and their utter disregard of all order and decency of behaviour, it is now necessary that the quorum, seven members, should be all agreed on the measure before the House, as the minority have, on more than one occasion, when dissatisfied with the proceedings, either raised a disturbance and prevented any further progress being made that day, or else walked out of the house, and thereby broken up the meeting, the reduced number of members, on their departure, not being sufficient for the transaction of business.

11. In order that henceforth all members should have ample notice of the day fixed for the meetings of the Legislature, and to put a final check to the system, long prevalent in this island, of summoning meetings upon the requisition of two or three members, who oftentimes hope thereby to secure just a sufficient number to carry some previously concerted scheme among themselves, I have informed the Speaker of the House of Assembly and the President of

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the Council that I shall convene the Legislature on the first Tuesday in each month. And when it is ascertained that unless a sufficient attendance is secured on the day now fixed, the period of four weeks will elapse before another summons, the members of the Assembly may at length see the necessity of really paying some attention to their duties.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDW. E. RUSHWORTH.

His Excellency the Governor-in-Chief,
&c. &c. &c.

Sub-Enclosure to Enclosure 6 in No. 18.

The Honourable Mr. SAUNDERS presented the following REPORT from the FINANCE COMMITTEE.

Committee Room, Montserrat, March 17, 1857.

THE Committee appointed to "examine into and report upon the financial condition of the island, and the best means of discharging all outstanding liabilities, and "providing for the regular payment of the public creditors,"

Report, That they find that the outstanding claims against the colony amounted on the 31st December last to the sum of 660*l.*, the greater part of which is due to the officers of the establishment.

That by the return hereto appended, it will be seen that the revenue of 1856 fell short 1,200*l.*, or nearly a third of that of the preceding year, and that this deficiency, 660*l.*, or rather more than half the amount, remains to be made good, the revenue of 1855 having exceeded the expenditure by about 540*l.*, which was applied to the payment of the arrears due for 1854.

In relation to the revenue and expenditure for 1857, your Committee have to report:

That the expenditure for the current year is estimated at 2,451*l.* 0*s.* 6*d.*, whilst the entire amount of income available does not exceed 1,980*l.*, leaving the amount of 471*l.* 0*s.* 6*d.* totally unprovided for, the payment of which it will be necessary to meet by raising further supplies.

The annual charge of the officers of the Civil Establishment is, at the present rate of salaries, 559*l.*; of the judicial, 281*l.*; and of the ecclesiastical, 207*l.*; and as it is considered that any proposed reduction can only be made from the amount of the salaries of the officers of the Civil Establishment, your Committee are of opinion, that no reduction is practicable in this department of the public service that would afford any perceptible relief to the tax-payers, and would not cause a loss altogether disproportionate to these officers, and in all probability be found detrimental to the efficiency of the public service.

That the heaviest charge on the revenue is that which it has to bear in consequence of the public having incurred the liability of making good to the Home Government the amount of all defaults made in the payment of the interest and instalments of the loan, none of the defaulting estates having, on being sold, realized more than a fifth part of the sum advanced on them. Your Committee think that these circumstances should be brought to the notice of Her Majesty's Government, with an humble prayer that the colony may be relieved from the overwhelming pressure of this heavy obligation.

Under the above circumstances, your Committee recommend, with regard to the debt of 660*l.* due to the 31st December last, that an assessment of 7*s.* in the 100*l.* on the value of lands and houses should be raised, and also the reimposition of the tariff duties for its discharge.

As the best means of providing for the remainder of the revenue of the current year, your Committee suggest the sale of the estates now in default, under the provisions of the Loan Act, and the reimposition of the duties on import already stated.

Your Committee also find that, should the import and export duties both be re-established, an assessment of 10*s.* in the 100*l.* will be sufficient to meet all the financial requirements of the colony, but if the former only should be reimposed, the rate of taxation on real property in such case would be 15*s.* in the 100*l.*

In the event, however, of your Honourable Houses not thinking fit to disturb the existing arrangements by reverting at once to the imports and exports, found so productive and beneficial previously to the introduction of the present system, but to await its legal expiration in October 1858, your Committee suggest the imposition of a license for the sale of spirituous and fermented liquors, and an increase of the assessment on houses in the town of Plymouth to the same rate as that on estates in the country, which would fully meet the ordinary expenditure.

Passed the Committee this 17th March 1857.

Report confirmed.

ROBERT SAUNDERS, Chairman.

Enclosure 7 in No. 18.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor HAMILTON to Mr. President RUSHWORTH.

(Montserrat, No. 8.)

SIR, Antigua, Government House, April 27, 1857.

I HAVE received your Despatches of the 14th April, No. 20, reporting on the financial condition of Montserrat, No. 21 transmitting copy of the proceedings of the Council and Assembly for the quarter ended 31st March, and your Despatches of the 15th April, No. 22, on the subject of the assessment for property tax on estates, and on the condition of the proprietary body generally; and No. 23, transmitting copy of the minutes of the Council and Assembly, with a report of their proceedings.

2. It will be convenient that I should notice these Despatches together, as they bear generally on the same subject.

3. In the nearly equal manner in which the contending parties are divided at Montserrat, it may be difficult to anticipate the rule which will prevail in regard to taxation; and you will probably consider it expedient to direct your attention more to the necessity which exists of obtaining a sufficient revenue than to the particular taxation by which it shall be raised.

4. The returns forwarded by you establish, I think, the propriety of the revision of the valuation of estates paying property tax.

5. As the year is advancing, with an acknowledged deficiency of revenue, it would be wise and convenient if the parties now divided on the question of imposition of import duties and a land tax, would agree to meet the deficiency on neutral ground by the imposition of some tax, such as trade licenses, removing from either party the necessity of acknowledging the victory or defeat of its opponent.

6. Due weight must be given to the remark of the Committee appointed to examine into and report upon the financial condition of the island, that the reduction of the salaries of the officers of the Civil Establishment would scarcely afford any perceptible relief to the tax-payers, and as you request my instructions on the contemplated reduction in the office of Colonial Secretary and Registrar of Deeds, I repeat my opinion that reductions of salary should be prospective, and not affect present holders of office.

7. The changes of persons in offices soon admit of arrangements by which reduction of salary can be effected without injury to individuals; and the revenue of a colony ought not to be so pared as to create inconvenience or injustice.

8. The opportunity of the abolition or union of offices, or reduction of salary on vacancies occurring, is freely offered to the Legislature of Montserrat.

9. I observe with regret, that in a population of 7,000 persons, nearly one-half of whom are represented to be under the age of 16 years, and upwards of 6,700 of whom are either not in a condition to bear taxation or are untaxed, the number of clergy has been reduced, and that there is but one clergyman of the Church of England, whose salary is small and in arrear.

10. I approve of your determination of having one stated monthly meeting of the Assembly, and shall await your report as to the working of that arrangement before conveying my further instructions.

I have, &c.

His Honour the President, &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) KER B. HAMILTON,
Governor-in-Chief

ST. KITTS.

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No. 19.

No. 19.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor KER B. HAMILTON to the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE, M.P.

(No. 49.)

Leeward Islands, Antigua, May 9, 1857.

(Received June 2, 1857.)

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit the Blue Book of St. Kitts, with the accompanying report of the Lieut.-Governor.

22d April 1857. No. 35.

* * * * * *

2. The circumstances disclosed in Lieut.-Governor Robinson's report in describing the system under which the public affairs of the Island are administered, and which exist more or less in other West India Colonies, contribute to the information already possessed, showing the absence of that administrative authority essential to good government which induced you to address me on the subject of obtaining a more effective and responsible administrative system in these colonies.

3. The assertion is beyond contradiction, that not only the minor functions but some of the higher functions of the Executive Government are usurped by the Assemblies, by means of the system of boards and committees referred to in this report.

4. The incompetency of irresponsible unpaid boards is a fact which has almost come to be received as an axiom; and if the evils of such a system are not more sensibly felt at present in St. Kitts, it is owing, as the Lieut.-Governor intimates, to the comparative state of prosperity which there exists.

5. A Bill designed to remove the evils alluded to was introduced into the Assembly at the close of last year, by which it was proposed to establish an Executive Council composed of members of the Council and Assembly, and to authorize the appointment by the Governor of a paid responsible executive committee of three, to be chosen two from the Assembly, and one from the Legislative Council.

6. It cannot excite much surprise that the measure, however desirable it might have been considered, had to encounter resistance from the majority, naturally averse to part with present privileges, and desirous to retain their present influence.

7. The want of a better system of Government is felt and acknowledged. It cannot be expected that persons residing in these colonies, and engaged in pursuits requiring great attention to realize subsistence, competency, or wealth, can devote themselves to the administration of public affairs, requiring consecutive attention; and a general feeling is beginning to prevail that certain responsible persons should be selected, and charged with the duty of performing those subordinate offices of Government essential to the due organization of modern society.

8. This requirement will ultimately prevail over those feelings of jealousy with which any supposed encroachments on the powers exercised by the Assembly are now watched, when it is more fully understood that the real power of a legislative body collectively is not diminished, although the influence of individuals may be lessened, by an efficient administrative system.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. H. Labouchere, M.P., &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) KER B. HAMILTON.

Encl. in No. 19.

Enclosure in No. 19.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieut.-Governor HERCULES G. R. ROBINSON to Governor HAMILTON.

(No. 35.)

SIR,

St. Christopher, 22d April 1857.

Blue Book, 1856.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the Blue Book of St. Kitts for the year 1856.

2. The financial details, though not in all respects such as might be desired, are upon the whole satisfactory. The colony continues free from debt; and

notwithstanding the unusually large outlay upon public works, amounting to upwards of 5,500*l.*, the receipts of the year have been in excess of the disbursements, leaving a balance in the treasury on the 31st December last of 3,943*l.* 12*s.* 10*d.*, as compared with a balance of 3,782*l.* 4*s.* upon the corresponding day of the previous year. From this balance, however, must be deducted the liabilities to public officers and public institutions for the quarter ended 31st December 1856, amounting to about 2,200*l.*, leaving a net balance of 1,743*l.* 12*s.* 10*d.* available for the services of 1857.

Revenue and Expenditure.

3. The revenue of 1856 exceeds that of 1855 by 1,022*l.* 7*s.* 8*d.*, being respectively 16,194*l.* 13*s.* 3*d.* and 15,172*l.* 5*s.* 7*d.* The expenditure for the same period is increased by 3,250*l.* 19*s.* 3*d.*, being in 1856 16,033*l.* 4*s.* 5*d.*, and in 1855 only 12,782*l.* 5*s.* 2*d.*

4. The increase in the revenue is attributable to the imposition of a tax upon provision grounds for educational purposes, and also to the sale of the buildings, unserviceable ordnance, and stores, handed over to the colony in 1854 upon the withdrawal of the troops.

5. The increase in the expenditure is owing to the numerous public works in progress, the details of which will be noticed under that head. With this exception the expenditure has been below the average.

The financial prospect for the present year is not altogether unclouded. The "Import Duties Act," under which nearly 10,000*l.* of the annual revenue is raised, will expire with the present session of the legislature upon the 10th July next. Upon the same day the Act passed early in 1855, imposing for two years an additional 15 per cent. upon the then existing duties and taxes (equivalent to 2,000*l.* per annum), in order to compensate for the extraordinary expenditure incurred during the visitation of cholera, will also expire. I have every reason to believe that the Import Duties Act will be re-enacted for another term of seven years without any material alteration; but it is now found that the sum (3,655*l.*) voted in 1855 by Act No. 720. for the new church in Basseterre falls short of the amount required by about 3,400*l.*, while the estimated excess of ordinary revenue over ordinary expenditure for the current year is quite inadequate to meet this unexpected demand, having indeed in a great measure been already appropriated for other purposes. Unless, therefore, this undertaking is to be brought to a stand-still, it will be found necessary to continue for another two years the additional taxation already referred to. Such a proposal will no doubt meet with considerable opposition; but as it is clear that if this work, which is now progressing satisfactorily, be either suspended or proceeded with so slowly as to absorb only the surplus revenue as it flows in, the cost of it will be materially increased, and the ultimate completion even rendered doubtful, I trust the legislature will be induced to provide the necessary means, so as to avoid any stoppage of this very desirable undertaking.

(Act, No. 690.)

(Act, No. 716.)

Imports and Exports.

7. There is an increase in the estimated value of the imports, as compared with 1855, amounting to 12,907*l.* 12*s.* 10*d.*, the imports for 1856 being returned at 109,005*l.* 4*s.* 2*d.*, and for 1855 at 96,097*l.* 11*s.* 4*d.* This increase, so far as it is real, is probably to be ascribed to a slight improvement in trade, consequent upon the circulation amongst the consuming class of the unusually large sum expended upon public works, and also to the fact that the past year was not favorable to the growth of ground provisions, which may have led to the substitution of imported food for the succulents upon which the laboring population are mainly accustomed to rely. The increase is, however, more apparent than real, and is chiefly owing to the alteration in the form of the import returns which appear in the present Blue Book, and which exhibit the value of the total imports of the year, and include, therefore, the value of the articles imported into bond, and either subsequently exported or remaining in bond for exportation or future consumption (estimated at 6,500*l.*), whereas in former Blue Books the value of the articles imported and entered for home consumption were alone stated; while, on the other hand, some allowance must be made for the value of the goods in bond on the 1st January 1856, and either entered

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for consumption during the past year or exported, which do not appear in the returns of the total value of imports for that year, and were not included in previous returns. If, therefore, these returns had been prepared according to the old form, the imports would not, as far as I can judge, have exhibited an increase of more than about one half of what they now do. The following is a statement of the value of the imports for the last five years:

Year.	Value of imports. £	s.	d.
1852	76,680	2	3
1853	91,935	11	8
1854	107,965	0	7
1855	96,097	11	4
1856	109,005	4	2

8. The exports show a small decrease; viz., from 144,641*l.* 12*s.* 3*d.* in 1855 to 137,531*l.* 4*s.* in 1856, being a falling off in value of 7,110*l.* 8*s.* 3*d.* It will, however, be observed that they have exceeded the imports by 28,525*l.* 19*s.* 10*d.*, and that they exceed the average value of the exports for the past five years, as will be seen from the subjoined return:

Year.	Value of exports. £	s.	d.
1852	91,741	19	3
1853	131,812	9	2
1854	133,089	9	2
1855	144,641	12	3
1856	137,531	4	0

9. It is, however, entirely owing to the high price of produce in the home market that the past year contrasts so favourably in the value of the exports with many previous years, the quantity exported having been far below the average. This decrease was anticipated, as stated in my Despatch No. 26. of the 14th April 1856, which accompanied the Blue Book for 1855, as a necessary consequence of the cessation of all field labour, in consequence of the prevalence of cholera, at the close of 1854 and the commencement of 1855, when the planting of the crop for 1856 should have been in full progress. The planters, unable to carry on the cultivation of their estates to the usual extent in the ordinary manner, fell back, as their only resource, upon a course of "ratoons," or second crop from the same plants; a system rarely successful in this island, and which in this instance, in consequence of the unfavourable weather which ensued, proved a total failure. The quantity of produce exported for each of the last five years was as follows:

Year.	Hhds. of sugar.	Pun. of rum.	Pun. of molasses.
1852	5,140	723	1,902
1853	7,053	870	2,793
1854	8,005	1,922	3,178
1855	7,245	1,894	1,747
1856	5,884	1,420	1,739

10. The prospect of the crop for the current year is, I regret to report, far from encouraging. A large extent of land was placed under cultivation at the commencement of last year, and the fields presented a very promising appearance until about the month of May, when a season of drought commenced, which prevailed for upwards of six months; and I fear that the crop of the present year will, in consequence, scarcely exceed 4,000 hogsheads.

Public Works.

11. Under this head there has been an expenditure of 5,522*l.* 18*s.* 7*d.*, which has been distributed in the following manner:

	£	s.	d.
1. Repairs of roads, bridges, and watercourses	1,260	4	1
2. Repairs of public buildings	758	14	4
3. Erecting new treasury buildings and police barrack	500	0	0
4. Erecting new harbour lighthouse at head of pier	100	0	0
5. New cemetery	304	0	2
6. Waterworks	100	0	0
7. New church, Basseterre	2,500	0	0
	5,522	18	7

12. The roads and public buildings have been kept in repair during the past year at little more than the ordinary expense, as will be seen by the foregoing statement, and may be pronounced to be, with the exception of one or two of the country churches, in a satisfactory condition.

13. A commodious barrack, 116 feet long by 42 broad, has been removed from Brimstone Hill, and placed at the head of the pier, to be used for a treasury and a police barrack. A lighthouse has been constructed upon the top of the building, the old one being in a dilapidated condition. These arrangements, in addition to affording greatly increased facilities for the transaction of business both to the officers of the treasury department and the public generally, will effect a saving in the expenditure of nearly 150*l.* per annum.

14. The new cemetery, to the leeward of the town of Basseterre, comprising a space of ten acres, has during the past year been surrounded by a wall; and an iron railing with which it is to be surmounted has been procured from England. I am glad to be enabled to report that interments in the town have now almost entirely ceased. In a sanitary point of view this change is of much importance.

15. Another desirable arrangement, the supply of Basseterre with pure and wholesome water from the mountains, a project of long standing, is at last on the point of completion. The pipes have already been laid down from the source of the supply in the mountains to the outskirts of the town, a distance of nearly three miles. This portion of the work has been performed by means of penal labour. A large reservoir has been constructed about the centre of the line, and a handsome fountain is in course of erection at the terminus of the works, and will serve in some measure to embellish this very ugly and ill-built town. One of the most pleasing features in connexion with these operations is the fact that the total expense will not exceed the amount originally voted by the legislature for the purpose (2,000*l.*); a result of rare occurrence in the history of public undertakings.

16. The new church now in course of erection in the parish of St. George, Basseterre, has made rapid progress during the past year, and the works, in so far as they have gone, have been constructed in a substantial and suitable manner, and at the lowest cost consistent with a sound economy. But the undertaking was necessarily commenced without sufficient data as to the probable cost, and many unforeseen expenses were discovered during the progress of the work. The result, as has been already stated, is that the sum voted by the legislature in 1855 (3,655*l.*) has been expended, and a further grant of 3,400*l.* will be required for its completion. The commissioners appointed to carry out the provisions of the Act report that they hope to have the building ready for use by the close of the present year, should the necessary funds be forthcoming. I should despair of seeing this work completed if again interrupted; and I fervently trust that nothing may occur to delay the satisfactory completion of an undertaking which is so urgently required, and which has been a prolific source of constantly recurring dissensions and ill-feeling for the last fourteen years.

Legislation.

17. Eight Acts became law during 1856, none of which appear to be of sufficient importance to call for special notice, with the exception of "An Act 'for compiling and printing a new Edition of the Laws of this Island and "Anguilla." This Act was framed upon the model of the Act passed in Barbados in 1854 for a similar purpose, and which has resulted in the compilation of all the Acts of that island into one volume. This is an improvement much needed here, and, I am happy to report, in a fair way of being accomplished, as the commissioners appointed under the Act to carry out its provisions have completed their part of the undertaking, and the draft is ready for transmission to the printers in London. The total expense of this project will not, I believe, exceed 400*l.*

18. I may mention under this head a desirable arrangement which has been entered into during the past year with the Colonial Bank, under the authority of a joint resolution of the legislative houses, by which the floating balances of public monies are deposited in the Colonial Bank from quarter to quarter, and thus rendered productive of interest at the rate of three per cent. per

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annum, while they are, at the same time, held available for the ordinary requirements of the colony.

Political Franchise.

Paper No. 1.

19. In order to give more detailed information, and for a longer period, under this head than can be found at page 59 of the Blue Book, I forward herewith a statement showing the number of voters who took part in the last four general elections, together with other particulars connected with this subject. An examination of this paper will disclose some strange facts. The island is divided into nine electoral divisions or parishes, which return altogether 24 members, who, with one member from Anguilla, constitute the so-called popular branch of the legislature. At the last census, taken on the 1st January 1855, the population of St. Kitts was found to be 20,741, of whom only 166 are possessed of the elective franchise; 87 of this number are in one parish, and 26 in another, leaving only 53 qualified voters in the remaining seven parishes to return 17 members, giving an average of one representative to every three voters. It would appear that the constituency of the island, limited as they are, take but little interest in the result of the elections, as I find that out of the 166 electors only 81 came forward to vote for the 24 members returned at the general election of 1853, 43 at the general election of 1854, 65 at that of 1855; while at the last general election in July 1856, 47 voters elected 22 members, one parish being unable to return the two representatives allowed to it, the sole constituent, a member of Council, being absent in Europe on leave. Some reform in this particular is surely needed. Indeed to designate a House of Assembly of 22 members, elected by 47 voters, out of a population of 21,000, as the "representatives of the people," and the "popular branch of the legislature," is simply ridiculous. The subject is, however, surrounded with many difficulties, amongst which I may specify the indifference with which their privileges are viewed by the present limited constituency, the apathy of the unrepresented population, and the absence of anything like a wholesome public opinion.

20. Another improvement to be desired is in the mode of taking the elections. By an Act passed in A.D. 1727, which regulates the proceedings at elections, the members of Council are constituted the returning officers for the House of Assembly, and the arrangement has remained in force to the present day, but it appears to me to be open to grave objections. A Bill was passed by the House of Assembly in 1855, by which this duty was imposed on the provost marshal, but the measure was thrown out by the board of Council.

Council and Assembly.

21. A reform in the system under which the public affairs of this island are administered is much required; and as the question engaged a considerable share of attention during the year under review, it is but right that I should allude to the subject.

22. The present condition of St. Kitts bears a striking resemblance in many respects to the state of things which prevailed in Jamaica before the recent change in the system of government in that colony was introduced, though indeed it is in some respects decidedly worse. The House of Assembly by gradual encroachments have practically acquired the control of financial affairs, and assumed many other purely administrative functions, which by the theory of the constitution belong, not to a legislative body, but to the executive Government. The Executive is not represented officially, or even at present unofficially, in either of the legislative houses, and is unable to communicate to them any suggestion or explanation, except personally, when opening a new session, or by message, a clumsy antiquated mode of procedure, by which the views of the Executive are always liable to be misunderstood, and which at the best falls far short of that unreserved intercourse between the Government and the legislature which is essential to cordial co-operation for the public good. The Executive, further, is wholly absolved from all responsibility in connexion with the management of the expenditure, while at the same time there is no member of the Assembly charged with or answerable for the preparation, at the commencement of each financial year, of an estimate of ways and means and expenditure, a salutary precaution which is therefore altogether neglected. Again, the revenue is not appropriated annually as it should be by statutory

enactment. About one half of the expenditure is fixed by law; the bulk of the remainder goes before a committee of public accounts (composed of members of the Council and Assembly) at the end of each quarter, and when passed by them is submitted to the Assembly in the form of a report, which is generally adopted without scrutiny, sent to the Council for their concurrence, and a resolution is passed requesting the Lieut.-Governor to sign orders on the treasury for the respective amounts mentioned in a schedule which is annexed, and which contains simply the names of the parties to be paid, and the amount due to each. Of the particulars of these accounts, or their necessity for the requirements of the public service, the Executive is never informed, and has no opportunity of judging. The salaries of many of the public officers, including the colonial secretary, provost marshal, clerk of the Council, and clerk of the Assembly, are not fixed either by statute or resolution of the legislature, but are voted in the manner I have detailed from quarter to quarter, upon the recommendation of the committee of public accounts. Formerly, I understand, the Assembly were very jealous and watchful of the proceedings of this committee, seeing the immense power placed in their hands; and the committee were not allowed to pass any account unless the outlay had been incurred under the special authority of some resolution of the house; but now their action is not restrained by any such regulation. I find, further, that the Assembly professes to be guided in all its proceedings by the standing rules and orders of the House of Commons, "in so far as they are applicable to this island;" but, notwithstanding that the Assembly dates only from A.D. 1713, the standing order of the House of Commons of the 11th December 1706, viz., "that this house will "receive no petition for any sum of money relating to the public service "but what is recommended from the Crown," and the whole theory upon which the foundation of all parliamentary taxation rests, namely, its necessity for the public service as declared by the Crown, is systematically disregarded. Any member of the Assembly may make application for and obtain a grant of public money, independent alike of the wishes of the Crown or the exigencies of the public service. Formerly there was a rule of the house, requiring notice to be given of any such motion; but this regulation, like the one governing the proceedings of the committee of public accounts, has for a long time fallen into desuetude. I find that in the last four years 20,000*l.* was voted in the manner I have described, without any previous notice, or the publicity which the passing a Bill through the stages would have ensured, but by simple resolution on the spur of the moment, not only in nearly every case without the recommendation of any responsible authority, but without the Executive, for whose requirements, as representative of the Crown, public money is in theory supposed to be granted, being made cognizant of the purposes to which the greater portion is to be applied.

23. This faulty system, under which an irresponsible Assembly has acquired almost absolute power in the financial administration of the colony, has naturally resulted in much waste and mismanagement of the public money. When it is stated that the island is at present free from debt, under this system, every thing will have been said which it is possible to advance in its favour; but in looking to the future I can place little reliance upon this fact, which it would be easy to trace to accidental circumstances, while the seeds of the evils which have overwhelmed other communities, and frequently involved this one in pecuniary embarrassments, are allowed to remain in active operation; and I fail to discover in the working of the present system, or rather in the present absence of all system, any guarantee that the close of this or any future year may not find the colony once more involved in the difficulties from which it has only been free for a very few years. In 1845 I find that the island was even more favourably circumstanced than it now is in this respect, there being a balance in the treasury upon the 31st of March of that year in favour of the public of 4,358*l.*; but in the course of three years (February 1848), without in the meanwhile any unforeseen calamity having occurred, the committee of public accounts reported that by the end of that year there would be a balance against the public of 4,000*l.* This proved correct; and in 1849 treasury debentures, bearing interest, had to be issued, and the island was involved in difficulties until 1851. For some years thereafter the revenue exceeded the expenditure, and upon the 1st January 1854 there was an available surplus balance in the treasury (after allowing for all outstanding liabilities at that date)

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of nearly 5,000*l.*; but by the 1st January 1855, the cholera having occurred in the meanwhile, there were again outstanding liabilities unprovided for to the extent of 2,000*l.*, which had to be met by additional taxation. In short, the financial history of this island for a number of years shows nothing more clearly than the want of some judicious and settled system of economy, in place of the alternate parsimony and extravagance which have hitherto prevailed.

24. But it is not only in the system of voting the expenditure that the Assembly have assumed functions which must be considered as incompatible with those of a legislative body. A large portion of the administrative business of the island is at present conducted by unpaid joint committees of both houses, with whom the Executive is constitutionally precluded from communicating. The "committee of public accounts," in addition to the duties which have been detailed, act also as a "board of audit," and the auditing of the public accounts appears to be thoroughly defective. In fact, nothing at all deserving of the name of an audit ever takes place, about four hours only in the whole year being devoted to the task. Then there is a "committee of public buildings" and "public works," who have the superintendence of the outlay of a large sum of public money, and whose accounts are supposed to be audited by the "committee of public accounts." This same committee also act as "vestries and churchwardens," whose duties are rather undefined. There is next a "public roads committee," and also a "committee to carry out the provisions of the Immigration Act," who have the absolute control of a large fund raised by special taxation, and whose accounts are not required to be audited at all. There is a "committee of public records," and numerous others which it would be needless to detail. These committees, imperfect as they are, have of late years increased both in number and power, and are in truth but the natural fruits of the present administrative system, there being simply a choice between them, and a contrivance almost equally objectionable. I allude to the numerous unpaid special commissions, which have also increased in number of late years.

25. Under the present form of government, whenever any administrative business has to be performed, not within the strict routine of duty of the few paid servants of the Government, it must be intrusted either to a legislative committee or a special commission appointed by the Executive, and both modes appear almost equally faulty. The first is cumbrous and unwieldy in the extreme, difficult to be got together, and still more difficult to be got to transact business steadily when convened, nor can it be put into communication with the Executive, or indeed strictly speaking with any executive department, except through the intervention of the houses themselves, who meet but once a month, and it is unreasonable to expect that such a roundabout mode can produce any other result than it does, namely, irresponsible inefficiency. On the other hand, the working of unpaid commissions and boards is, generally speaking, equally unsatisfactory, and the legislative houses naturally complain that from the moment the money is voted for any undertaking, and that the measure is handed over to the Executive to be carried out by means of a commission, the Executive not being represented in the houses, they find themselves practically deprived of any voice or control in carrying out the details, and are even unable to obtain information on the subject. This is no doubt true, and hence, no middle course having as yet been devised, there is at present but the choice between these two evils,—the legislative houses must either do the work themselves, and thus assume functions little suited to such bodies, or else they must relinquish that control over administrative business which, under the theory of the British constitution, they should retain; and it appears only natural that they should prefer the former alternative, more particularly when the working of the latter may be characterized as almost equally inefficient.

26. With a view of correcting these evils a Bill (a copy of which was transmitted with my Despatch No. 66. of the 15th December 1856) was prepared, and introduced into the Assembly at the close of the last year, when it was read a first time, and ordered to be printed; but upon the motion for the second reading it was rejected. By this Bill it was proposed (1st) to establish an Executive Council, to act as the advising council of the Governor, and to be composed, not as the Privy Council is at present, of members of the Legislative Council only, but of members of both branches of the legislature; and (2dly) to authorize the appointment by the Governor of a paid Executive Committee of three members, to be chosen two from the Assembly and one from the Legislative Council, who were to hold office so long as they retained the confidence of both

houses. The members of the committee were to act as the organs of the Government in their respective chambers; to assist the Governor in the preparation of annual estimates, in the collecting and distributing of public monies, and in the general administration of the finances of the island; to prepare and perfect all papers, answers, bills, and other matters which the Governor might deem fit to submit to either branch of the legislature; to discharge the duties of a board of audit, and the duties at present performed by the several committees of public accounts, public buildings, and all other administrative duties now performed by joint committees of the Board of Council and House of Assembly; and, above all, it was provided that all motions for grants or appropriations of money should originate in the House of Assembly with the members of the Executive Committee therein, or with their sanction, and not otherwise.

27. These were the leading features of the proposed measure; and, strange as the statement will appear, the opposition which it encountered in the Assembly was avowedly more to the first part of the proposal, i. e., the creation of an Executive Council, than to the confining of their own powers within prescribed constitutional limits, which would have been the result of the second part, and to which the majority, I understand, expressed themselves favourable. The chief objection was to members of Assembly sitting at the Privy Council Board with the Governor, which it was asserted would practically increase to an unlimited extent the power of the Executive, while it would destroy the independence of the house; and although this objection amounted simply to a declaration of a want of confidence in themselves, the measure was nevertheless in consequence defeated, and must be allowed to rest for at least the remainder of this session.

28. Much, however, has in my opinion been gained by bringing the measure forward, notwithstanding its temporary rejection; for it has led persons to investigate the real rights and privileges and safeguards of the constitution, of which our institutions here are supposed to be a copy, and it has served to check any further advances, if such were possible, in a wrong direction. The present time appears also peculiarly favourable for considering any such change, inasmuch as it can now be done apart from the bitterness and asperities which pecuniary embarrassments and the necessary retrenchment inevitably give rise to in these small communities. The measure has been warmly supported and ably advocated by those whose opinions can scarcely fail to carry weight; and when the public become familiarized with the idea, and have time to reflect upon it, I feel convinced it will be viewed with favour, and ultimately adopted. Such objections as "want of material" and the "state of the franchise," which have been urged against it, have in reality no bearing upon the contemplated change. A form of constitution exists which has obtained for a century and a half, and, however imperfect, and unsuited to the present state of society, upon which there can scarcely be two opinions, nothing short of compulsion by Parliamentary interference would serve to abrogate it. The present proposal does not seek to do so; it merely takes the material as it at present exists, and substitutes paid responsible servants selected from the legislative houses, for the unpaid irresponsible action of those bodies in conducting the administrative business of the island. The proposal has been little understood in some quarters, and the wildest ideas have been advanced in connexion with it. I may, therefore, explain here, that it was never proposed to establish party Government in the sense which the term implies in other colonies. It was not proposed that any of the public servants at present holding offices of trust or emolument should for the future hold their offices upon any political tenure, or that any change whatever should take place in this respect. For such a system of responsible Government the island undoubtedly does not possess the material, and is altogether unfitted. The rejected measure simply went the length of providing that what is now not attempted to be done at all, vizt., superintending the expenditure, and what is attempted, but inefficiently executed, vizt. the discharge of administrative duties by irresponsible unpaid joint committees of the two houses, should for the future be entrusted, under the supervision of the Executive, to three responsible paid servants chosen from those bodies, and holding office so long only as they retained their confidence. However imperfect even such a reformed system may be considered, and however ill suited to a state of society such as is found here, it would unquestionably be a great improvement upon what at present exists; it would present an immediate remedy for many great and acknowledged evils, and

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would, I am convinced, lead eventually to other important and desirable changes, which, under present circumstances, it would be hopeless to seek to carry out.

29. One other remedy only has been suggested for the existing evils, viz. the union of the two legislative chambers into one, and a measure for effecting this object was brought a few years ago under the consideration of the legislative houses, when it not only failed in enlisting any support, but encountered almost unanimous opposition, but it must be evident that such a measure would not meet the case here, unless it were combined with the adoption of the principle of responsibility in some form or other in conducting the administrative business of the island.

Labour and Immigration.

30. The want of continuous labour still constitutes the chief impediment to the further development of the productive resources of this island. I have but little to add to the lengthened remarks which I ventured to submit upon this subject in my report which accompanied the Blue Book for 1855. Nothing has occurred to alter the opinion which I then held, that no permanent remedy for the evil can be found short of the advancement in civilization of the labouring classes, who are already in point of numbers sufficient to meet every requirement. Efforts are being made in this direction, but the attainment of the end must be a work of time. As to measures of immediate relief, partial attempts have been made to take advantage of the disposition which very generally exists on the part of the population to engage in cultivation on their own account, by admitting them to a participation in the profits with the planters (commonly known as the halves system); but the general results of such attempts have not, as far as I can learn, been encouraging; and it is not likely that the system will be carried out to any extent here; nor is there much prospect of the establishment here of any division of labour, whereby the cultivation of the cane and manufacture of the sugar would be conducted by different parties, many local difficulties presenting themselves to any such scheme. The only source looked to for the present relief is the introduction of indentured labourers from other countries, and the first step in this direction was taken in the month of April last year, under the provisions of the Immigration Act (No. 717.), by the importation of 108 labourers from Madeira, under contract to serve for three years. Shortly after the arrival of this first batch the outbreak of cholera at Madeira closed this source of supply, and it was not until last month that a second lot of 58 were obtained. There appears, however, now to be a fair prospect of a limited but regular supply from this quarter. The balance in the treasury of the immigration fund on the 31st December last amounted to nearly 2,700*l.*; and as one half of the expense of each immigrant imported is borne by the planter to whom he is allotted, the amount available for this purpose may at this moment be estimated at about 5,000*l.*

Sanitary.

31. The adoption of proper measures of sanitary improvement is a reform urgently required here; but the paramount importance of the subject does not appear to be sufficiently appreciated by the inhabitants generally, notwithstanding the warning they have had in the recent visitation of cholera. I urged the consideration of this question upon the legislative houses as forcibly as I could in my speech on opening the new session in July last, a copy of which I forwarded at the time in my Despatch No. 44. of the 17th July 1856, and as all the local deficiencies and requirements in connexion with this subject are there detailed, it is unnecessary that I should recapitulate them now. It will be sufficient to observe, that although the evils were admitted, and my suggestions favourably received, no decided efforts to remedy these defects have as yet been made. The Board of Health requires to be altogether remodelled. It consists of some 25 gentlemen, whose zeal and self devotion during the prevalence of cholera were deserving of all praise, but with the disappearance of the immediate cause for this unusual exertion the board relapsed into comparative inaction, and I find that they only met during the year 1856 three times, and upon those occasions only in consequence of the receipt of intelligence of the prevalence of cholera in other colonies, for the purpose of enforcing quarantine measures. I cannot view this result with any surprise. It is the natural consequence of the very imperfect and inconvenient system of transacting public

business, which has of late years, as I have already stated, been much on the increase, and this board (like many others similarly constituted) exhibits in its working a striking example of the hopelessness of expecting from unpaid and virtually irresponsible persons, whose time is already fully occupied, that systematic application which in a matter of this kind can alone effect any permanent reform.

Education.

32. The returns under this head are satisfactory. The Act for raising a fund for educational purposes by means of a tax upon provision grounds came into operation upon the 1st January 1856, and thus far the favourable anticipations which I expressed in regard to it when transmitting the Blue Book for 1855 have been realized. The two assessments of last year under this Act have been collected without any default, producing 632*l.* 7*s.* 10*d.*, which, with 206*l.* 11*s.* 9*d.* received from the children in school fees, makes a total of 838*l.* 19*s.* 7*d.* (independent of all private contributions) expended during the year for educational purposes. The attendance in the different schools appears to be steadily increasing, and from the control which the Act gives to the board of education I have no doubt that a plainer and sounder system of instruction and training will in due time be brought about.

Gaol and Prisoners.

33. I forward with this Despatch a return (in continuation of the one forwarded in previous years) showing the number of convicts sentenced to imprisonment for each of the last five years, specifying the nature of their offences. From this it will be seen that a considerable increase has taken place in the number of prisoners during 1856, as compared with the previous year, chiefly under the head of convictions for cane stealing and other petty thefts; a result usually ensuing in this country upon an unfavourable agricultural season.

Paper No. 2.

Conclusion.

34. Upon the whole I have to report favourably of the condition and even the prospects of the island, though as to the latter I cannot but see sufficient room for uneasiness. The present condition of the island may be fairly judged from the details of the Blue Book. Its future prospects I have endeavoured to explain; but I cannot close this Despatch without once more referring to the insecurity of the finances, and the very great risk there is, that unless some material change be introduced into the mode of conducting public business generally, the community may some day find themselves surrounded by difficulties which they have no means of efficiently resisting. My great hope is, that being now forewarned, they may adopt some better system, and thus be found forearmed when the day of trial and of danger comes.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HERCULES G. R. ROBINSON,
Lieut.-Governor.

No. 1.

No. 1.

SAINT CHRISTOPHER FRANCHISE RETURN.

Name of Parish.	Area in Statute Acres.	Population on 1st January 1855.			Number of Members returned by each Parish.	Number of Persons qualified to vote in each Parish.	Number who voted at last Four Elections.			
		M.	F.	Total.			1853	1854	1855	1856
St. George, Basseterre -	7,127	2,268	3,051	5,319	4	87	43	12	31	10
St. Peter, Basseterre -	4,743	956	959	1,915	2	9	3	3	3	1
Trinity, Palmetto Point -	3,614	473	491	964	3	7	9	3	2	4
St. Thomas, Middle Island -	6,071	932	1,062	1,994	2	13	4	4	3	3
St. Ann, Sandy Point -	3,149	1,403	1,766	3,169	3	26	5	11	15	17
St. Paul, Capisterre -	3,565	735	823	1,558	2	6	3	2	2	1
St. John, Capisterre -	6,152	1,155	1,248	2,403	3	10	8	4	3	6
Christ Church, Nic. Town -	3,997	780	881	1,661	2	1	1	1	1	Nil.
St. Mary, Cayon - -	3,596	823	935	1,758	3	7	5	3	5	5
Total - -	42,014	9,525	11,216	20,741	24	166	81	43	65	47

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Paper No. 2.

Paper No. 2.

NUMBER of CONVICTS sentenced to Death or to Imprisonment, or Imprisonment with Hard Labour, for the Years 1852 to 1856.

CRIMES.

	1852.	1853.	1854.	1855.	1856.
1st. Against the Person:					
Assaults	39	38	32	30	24
Assault with intent to do grievous bodily harm	10	6	9	1	4
Assault with intent to murder	—	—	—	—	—
Culpable homicide	—	1	1	—	1
Murder (executed)	—	—	1	—	—
Rape or assault with intent	—	—	—	—	1
Unnatural offences or attempts	—	—	—	—	—
	49	45	43	31	30
2d. Against Property with Violence:					
House, &c. breaking with intent to steal, and theft	5	—	—	—	—
Robbery	—	3	—	—	—
	5	3	—	—	—
3d. Against Property without Violence:					
Cattle, horse, and sheep stealing, theft or receipt of stolen goods, &c.	173	53	63	32	117
Frauds, embezzlement, vagrant act	2	1	3	1	3
	175	54	66	33	120
4th. Malicious Offences against Property:					
Arson	1	—	—	—	—
Forgery	—	—	—	2	5
Other malicious injury of property	16	3	7	2	1
	17	3	7	4	6
5th. Other Offences:					
Abusive language	12	7	13	8	13
Aiding prisoners to escape	—	—	—	—	—
Contempt of Court	—	—	1	—	—
Contract act	9	1	3	5	4
Conspiracy	—	—	—	—	—
Cruelty to animals	—	1	3	1	5
Disorderly conduct	66	33	24	29	46
Exposing person	3	5	—	—	—
Forcible possession	—	—	—	1	—
Game laws	—	—	2	1	—
Merchant seamen's Act	5	12	—	2	3
Perjury	4	1	—	—	—
Petty trespass Act	—	—	—	2	15
Pound-breach	—	1	2	—	1
Resisting police	1	—	3	—	5
Revenue laws	1	1	—	3	2
Sanitary	—	1	6	—	—
Unauthorized detention of property	1	—	—	1	1
Uttering counterfeit coin	—	—	—	1	—
	102	63	57	54	95
TOTAL	348	168	173	122	251

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No. 20.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor HAMILTON to the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE, M.P.

(No. 54.) Antigua, June 4, 1857.

SIR, (Received June 30, 1857.)

In Duplicate.

I HAVE the honour to transmit the Blue Book of Nevis for the year 1856, with President Sir Arthur Rumbold's Report thereon, and a letter addressed to him by Stipendiary Magistrate Dyett, also relating to the state of the island.

2. The abolition of the import duties has not been successful in cheapening articles to the labouring population; for, in St. Kitts, where a high tariff exists, the necessaries of life, it is stated, are frequently procurable at a less price than in Nevis; and no sufficient substitute having as yet been provided for those duties which formed the principal part of the revenue, Nevis is suffering from the bad effects of a deficient revenue.

3. The President advocates a return to, or at least a modification of the old system; but the proprietors, who are sensible of the advantages they derive from an unfettered trade, which has brought cheapness into their transactions, are of course unwilling to re-impose import duties, but not less unwilling to increase direct taxation.

4. Under these circumstances, it is difficult to say when a sufficient revenue will be raised to defray the very moderate salaries of the public officers, who are the chief sufferers.

5. Nevis and Montserrat, in which direct taxation prevails, are the only islands in this Government in which the revenue is insufficient to meet the ordinary expenditure, and that taxation is reluctantly submitted to.

I have, &c.

(Signed) KER B. HAMILTON.

The Right Hon. H. Labouchere,
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure in No. 20.

COPY of a DESPATCH from President Sir ARTHUR RUMBOLD to the GOVERNOR-IN-CHIEF.

(No. 48.)

SIR, Nevis, May 20, 1857.

Triplicate.

I MUST crave your Excellency's indulgence for the late period at which the Blue Book for Nevis for 1856 is forwarded. I have had to return the whole of the statistical tables for recompilation; the book was in fact only placed in my hands on the 15th instant. As I was not in the colony during any part of 1856, I have directed Mr. Stipendiary Justice Dyett to draw up a Report, which I herewith forward. I regret to find that he fully confirms my own impression as to the slight progress made by the colony in political advancement, or in the measures calculated to further develop the social or moral reformation of the population.

2. In my Despatch No. 37, of April 18th, I entered fully into what I humbly conceived to be the causes of the state of financial embarrassment in which I found the colony on my assumption of the Government, a state of finance which my predecessor in January last has termed "normal." I do not on more mature reflection see any cause to alter the opinion I then expressed; and shall now proceed to make a few general remarks as they may be suggested by the tables which accompany this Report.

Revenue and Expenditure.

3. According to the two quinquennial tables, A, B, and C, the revenue would appear to have been always in excess of the expenditure; the tables have been compiled from the Blue Books for that period. The said Blue

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Books, however, I regret to say, appear to be very incorrect, and certainly the fact is not established that Nevis has ever had a permanent surplus revenue. In the commencement of the present year a debt of 1,449*l.* 16*s.* 4*d.* (chiefly due to public officers for salaries) existed; and yet I find that to the sources derived from the Direct Taxation Bill, which came into force in March 1856, but was collected for the whole twelve months, must be superadded two months' import and export duties; the revenue on an average may be taken at 3,500*l.* The neighbouring island of St. Kitts, which has a population of as nearly as possible the double of that of Nevis, raises a revenue about five times the amount of this colony, so that the taxes of this community cannot be considered burthensome; yet it is very questionable whether a revenue sufficient for the present very moderate requirements can be raised by direct taxation exclusively; for either a very faulty mode of assessment exists, or land cannot bear any additional burthen, as the present tax professes to raise 20 per cent. on the rental or letting value of sugar estates. A combination of systems must necessarily follow. It appears to me to be a most hazardous experiment to rely exclusively on direct taxation, in a West Indian community, to raise a sufficient revenue; the danger is great. No rule of political economy is applicable to all conditions of society. Though free trade is eminently successful in England, in a small colony, isolated necessarily by its geographical position, and producing the necessaries of life largely, all importations must be limited; and to abandon duties on these is synonymous with a renunciation of fixed revenue. It is remarkable, moreover, that scarcely any perceptible diminution in price has resulted to the general consumers, notwithstanding a total abrogation of import duties; at St. Kitts, where a tariff exists, the necessaries of life are frequently procurable at a less price than in Nevis. Moderate import duties would not, I conceive, affect the peasantry, and not only act as an inducement to additional labour, but obviate those difficulties which have presented themselves to the harmonious order of good government in every West India colony where the revenue has been raised by the operation of direct taxation. Moreover, I consider that I am fully borne out in stating that the mercantile body generally, the interest, primarily at least, most benefited in a pecuniary point of view by the present abrogation of duties, would hail a return to a well adjusted tariff as being for this very limited colony the most advantageous mode of raising the revenue.

4. The peasantry working under the Metairie operation are, with the present remunerative rates of produce, well off; but under less favourable circumstances, the emigration to the other islands, which even now exists, would, I am convinced, be disastrously increased by the dissatisfaction produced by direct taxation. It is no argument, so far as the labourer here is concerned, that his taxation is trivial compared with the English labourer; it is the system which he views as unjust, and consequently supports reluctantly, if at all, and relative to which he is peculiarly averse to listen either to explanation or reason; in short, it is difficult to conceive any other means of supplying a deficit of the ordinary revenue, which is already far too small for all practical purposes, much less to attain an addition, so as to carry out works of public utility which are now entirely abandoned, and grant encouragement to industrial schools, for which no sort of provision is made; far from education being "pushed through every avenue we can find for it," every public avenue in Nevis is pertinaciously closed against it.

Imports.

5. With the exception of a large apparent increase for 1856, these present no remarkable feature, though allowance should be made for some increase in the trade of last year. I am inclined to put down a large portion of the augmentation to the open importation of goods; no pretence now exists for smuggling; this, there can be no doubt, was formerly extensively carried on, and the customs' staff was always inadequate for the prevention of illicit trade. A singular corroboration of the amount of which the revenue was defrauded was arrived at during the late visitation of cholera, when the boat trade between Nevis and St. Kitts was altogether suspended, and Nevis trafficked with St. Thomas and Antigua,—both these islands are too far removed for smuggling in open boats,—the receipts of the customs were more than doubled in the quarter, being respectively 315*l.* 8*s.* 11*d.* in 1853, and 670*l.* 5*s.* 3*d.* in 1854.

Exports.

6. With the exception of 1847, as per Returns D and E, these present but little feature for remark. I am happy to say that the seasons have been, and promise to be, most favourable, and though such a remarkable crop as that of 1847 cannot be again anticipated, yet a large augmentation is looked for next year, as a considerable addition has been made to the land under cultivation.

Gaols.

7. By the destruction of the upper part of the barracks, which had been converted into the island gaol, only the ground floor cells remained; since then it appears to have really become a place of punishment, and as such to inspire salutary awe. The return F presents a remarkable feature, for during eight months, from January 1856 to August last inclusive, there were 109 prisoners confined in the gaol; during the next eight months (up to April last inclusive), there were only 63; the gaol was destroyed in August. It is true that the stipendiary magistrate has in all instances, when in his power, levied and recovered fines rather than commit to gaol offenders brought before him in his magisterial capacity; but there can be little doubt that the main cause for the apparent diminution of prisoners arises from the fear entertained of being confined in the hot cells, which, until a prison is built, I lament to have to say constitutes the Colonial Gaol; the embarrassed state of finance precludes at present the undertaking of this necessary work, but I shall lose no opportunity to urge its completion upon the Legislature.

Legislation.

8. One solitary Act, the Alien Act, graces the Statute Book of Nevis for the past year; it is hard to say what laws exist; there is no printing press in the island, and no compilation or consolidation has been effected. One of my first recommendations was, that a revision and compilation should be made. I believe a committee will be appointed for this purpose, which will, without doubt, carry out the spirited arrangement of its predecessors, annually appointed if requested by the administrator of the government, and annually expiring, like its brother committees, in the effort of giving birth to some feasible plan for carrying out so necessary an object.

Government House.

9. A house is rented by the colony for the accommodation of the administrator, but it is totally unfurnished. On my arrival I had, at great cost and inconvenience, to purchase every article of furniture; this, probably, is the only colony which does not provide to some extent for the comfort of its chief local officer.

Constitution.

10. If, by means of a local enactment, the two houses could be consolidated into one, so as to form a Legislative Council, a portion to be nominated by the Crown, the other portion to be annually or triennially elected, the said Council to hold a short but continuous session in each year, I conceive that great benefit would result to the colony; the Executive has really now not the power, and scarcely any opportunity, to propose or advise measures of reform, or to throw out financial suggestions, and, except to veto the legalizing of any essentially mischievous enactment, remains powerless to effect good.

11. My predecessor appears to have anxiously weighed this subject, and to have been fully impressed with the necessity of an organic change. The material for two houses does not indeed exist. To anticipate "reforms such as altered times may require," evinces a wise forethought; but though under the existing state of parties I am not very sanguine of effecting "such reforms even as changed times do require," my endeavours will not be the less zealous; should they prove unfortunately fruitless, I shall at least possess the knowledge, pleasing to myself, and, I trust, not unsatisfactory to Her Majesty's Government, that I have left no proper and constitutional mode untried to enhance the real interests of my fellow subjects committed in this colony to my care and charge.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) ARTHUR RUMBOLD.

His Excellency the Governor-in-Chief,
&c. &c. &c.

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Sub-Enclosure 1. in No. 20.

SIR, Nevis, May 14, 1857.

IN small colonies the leading and influential natives are extremely and painfully jealous of any apparent interference, even though it be of the most passive kind, and confined simply to inquiry on the part of a stranger, into the existing order of things, unless that stranger occupy a position which renders such inquiry or investigation on his part a directly responsible duty; for this reason, having regard to my official position, I have felt it desirable to confine my attention as much as possible simply to the punctual discharge of the duties of my own department, and I am, therefore, unable materially to aid your inquiries. I shall, however, in obedience to your command, submit to you such observations as may occur to me, confident that you accept them with every allowance for their necessary imperfection, under the circumstances which I have stated above.

2. When in the early part of last year, I was, by the Governor-in-Chief's order, unexpectedly directed to repair to Nevis, "for the more efficient discharge of the magisterial duties of the island," it was currently reported among the neighbouring islands, and, I believe, generally apprehended in Nevis, that extensive discontent and dissatisfaction were prevalent among the labouring population, and that disturbances of the public peace were impending, which were likely to call for extraordinary means for their suppression; incendiary fires were expected and had been attempted, and it was deemed necessary to organize by private subscription, in aid of the small police and ordinary constabulary, a night guard for the protection of the town, in order to allay the great and painful anxiety felt by the inhabitants, and it was further seriously feared that the taxes could not be collected, or the laws carried out, without an appeal for military assistance. Whether these fears were at the time well grounded or not, I am not in a position to say, but I can confidently assert that since my arrival here I have seen nothing to justify them; the fears indeed have been removed, the night guard has been dispensed with, and good order is established. Among the idle population of Charlestown indications of the absence of regular police discipline are undoubtedly observable; but nothing like wanton disregard of the law has come under my notice, and were it existent, it could not be hidden from me. From the rural districts I seldom hear of serious complaints, the people seem to me to be on the whole well disciplined and orderly; there are no laws regulating the relation between master and servant, and yet I have reason to believe the duties of that relation are well observed.

3. In physical circumstances the peasantry of Nevis are unquestionably in advance of those in many of the other islands. Money wages is not the general rule, but the exception, and most of the sugar estates are cultivated wholly or in part by what is called share labour, or (improperly) "Metairie," and, during the high prices which have ruled of late, the negroes have reaped large rewards for their industry in the cultivation of the soil, but unfortunately in this island there is little opportunity afforded them for profitable investment, otherwise than in the purchase of cattle or other stock, the care of which tends to withdraw them from the more laborious and really more profitable agricultural employments. Savings banks have not been established, and are, indeed, out of the question in a country which does not efficiently or regularly provide for the maintenance of its ordinary and most indispensable civil institutions. A savings bank in Nevis could not command the public faith, and would have no depositors; money, therefore, in the hands of the labourers, not invested in stock, or in the purchase of small allotments of provision ground, is either spent in dress or wasted in dissipation, or else it is hoarded up in secret places, lying idle, and not contributing to the general advance, as capital in circulation would do. With very few exceptions, the negro will not employ his means in the improvement of his dwelling, in the education of his children, or in meeting any of those wants which are so indispensable among more civilized people. The negro, with considerable means at his command, and with regular and steady employment, more than sufficient to provide for the daily material wants of his family, will retain his children dirty and ragged about him, unwilling to contribute the smallest sum for their education and training, and will allow them in sickness to die off without the assistance of any regular medical practitioner, rather than pay the small fee which would be required to provide that assistance. These, however, are universal traits in the negro character, and are by no means confined to the peasantry of Nevis. In other islands means are contributed from the public funds to provide some education for the children of the labouring classes, and in St. Kitts they are provided from the same source, with medical attendance.

4. Nevis is not, indeed, altogether without schools, there being day and Sunday schools unaided by any public grant, in connection with the Church of England and with the Wesleyan body, in the several parishes of Saint Paul, Saint Thomas, Saint George, and Saint James, and a Sunday school in connexion with the church in Saint John's; but these schools are not adapted to the wants of a West Indian community, limiting, as they do, the instruction they afford merely to the elementary branches of a literary education. What is here wanted is a well-disciplined industrial school, where reading, writing, and arithmetic would be combined with training to agricultural and mechanical employments. A very small amount of means would be sufficient to put such schools

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into operation, and, if properly conducted, they would in a short time become self-supporting, and would afford a most efficient means of securing to the country in future years a body of orderly and industrious peasantry.

The soil of Nevis is extremely fertile, and is well adapted to cane cultivation; and it well repays any expenditure of capital or labour; but the island has suffered, in common with the sister colonies, from causes common to them all;—to inquire into these causes would lead me into a useless and tedious prolixity of detail; they are not obscure, and any one who has had a practical knowledge of West Indian affairs must be fully acquainted with them. Misapplication of the compensation money, mismanagement of the four years prædial apprenticeship, and unwise and unfair means of compelling labour at the commencement of the unrestricted freedom, lie at the bottom of the depreciation of property; yet, after all, this depreciation, so loudly complained of, is more apparent than real. Estates are not less productive, nor less remunerative now than formerly, but credit is not so easily obtained nor so extensively given, and the wealth of a West Indian planter is not so ostensible; but it is, I verily believe, more real and sound.

5. I have no other source of information than the Blue Books, but I find from these official documents that the importations into the island of Nevis for the past five years, viz., for the years 1852, 1853, 1854, 1855, and 1856, amounted to the aggregate sum of 113,951*l.*, being an average of 22,790*l.*; but the imports of the last year, 1856, exceeded by nearly 14,000*l.* the highest imports of any of the four preceding years. There can be no reason to believe that this increase is to be attributed to a corresponding increase of trade or otherwise, than to the fact that the abrogation of all import duties has removed the inducement to illicit importation, and led to more faithful returns of the value of articles imported.

The exports for the same quinquennial period, as derived from the same source, amounted to the sum of 162,721*l.*, giving an average of 32,544*l.* per annum. It may be here remarked that the exports for 1856 have been less in amount than during any of the four preceding years; and, although I am not sufficiently conversant with the state of the crops during the several years referred to to speak with confidence on the subject, I am under the impression that the decrease in the value of exports may in part be accounted for by the removal of the export duties having led to a looseness in watching and noting the returns of exported produce. The returns of imports and exports for the period referred to are as follow:—

	Imports.			Exports.		
	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
1852	17,866	12	0	27,689	19	0
1853	20,965	15	0	36,064	12	0
1854	20,933	9	0	32,794	18	0
1855	19,728	6	0	38,976	15	0
1856	34,449	0	0	27,194	15	3

6. The average revenue for the five years above mentioned amounted to 3,474*l.*, which will give, the population being estimated in round numbers at 9,600 souls, the rate of contribution to public exigencies within a fraction of 7*s.* 3*d.* per caput.

Returns of births and deaths are so irregular that they afford no reliable data for statistical calculations. The number of marriages, during the five years before referred to, has fluctuated very considerably. The greatest number returned in one year was 163, in 1854, the year after the desolating plague of cholera—a visitation which, in other places besides Nevis, has frightened people into a temporary regard to morality; and, I believe, not only with regard to cholera, but with regard to other fatal pestilences, recorded experience shows that their cessation has been followed rapidly by an increase of births and marriages. Taking the five years together, the annual number of marriages will be seventy-three. In the same period the average births, as collected from the baptismal returns, have borne a proportion of (within a fraction) three per cent. to the population. As all burials are not recorded, any calculation of the rate of mortality founded on the returns is likely to be fallacious; but assuming the correctness of these returns, I find the average rate of mortality to be slightly above one and a half per cent., or about 1·70. In this calculation I have not taken into account the deaths of the cholera year 1853; or, more correctly, I have taken the deaths in that year at the common average of the other four years, namely 163. These calculations, if they approach to accuracy, and I am disposed to think that, relatively considered, they do afford tolerably correct data,—for, as there are unrecorded burials, so there are children unbaptised,—clearly show the population to be on the increase. Emigration, however, is not taken into account; but at present emigration is not active, and many of the labourers who migrate to Trinidad and other places, return, after a time, to Nevis; the population, therefore, is not likely to be materially thinned by this cause.

8. The island is quite capable of yielding, if capital and labour could be brought into operation, double the quantity of its staple productions: indeed there appears now to be at work an industrious spirit of improvement; cultivation appears to be more carefully

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attended to; and a more economical, and, at the same time, more liberal spirit of management is gradually taking the place of the niggardliness and wastefulness which were before so prevalent, and there is ample room to hope for the gradual regeneration of the colony. To promote and ensure this, however, it will be necessary that a wiser legislation should be inaugurated: encouragement must be given to industry, energy, and talents; public faith must be kept with the public creditor; and the institutions of the colony must be put on a more liberal and efficient footing.

9. The inapplicability of the forms of the British constitution to the small West Indian dependencies is obvious; without a sufficient number of men qualified for the duties of the smallest English vestry, the legislation of these islands is distributed among three distinct branches, typical of King, Lords, and Commons. As might be expected, narrowness of view and selfishness of object come commonly into play, and progress is retarded rather than furthered by the measures and influence of such a Legislature. In this colony there is a productive capacity which would enable it to support all the institutions necessary to a civilized community upon a sufficiently effective scale, if a little enlightenment of view and a little abnegation of self could be secured; but, unfortunately, the history of our legislation will show, I fear, that it has been adapted to meet particular and even individual cases, rather than to provide for general exigencies; and one of the first steps necessary for the advancement of the community would be a change in its constitutional forms, and the substitution of a more compact body for the present cumbrous machinery of legislation. It would be vain to hope for such a change, but I am confident, and will be bold enough to express my view, that if the legislation could be committed to the Governor alone, or even to a Governor and Council of nominated officials, independent of and untrammeled by local views and local interests, and responsible only to the Governor-in-Chief, and, through him, to the Government and Parliament at home, the affairs of an island like Nevis would shortly know a vast improvement; but, as so vital a change is not likely to meet with countenance in the island, we may perhaps hope that a conviction of the growing evils of the present system will, at least, induce the Legislature to provide for the consolidation of the two legislative bodies into one chamber, consisting of a smaller number of members (part nominated and part elected), thus securing a unity, and consequently an efficiency of action which cannot be looked for from our now complicated legislative organization.

10. At present the most necessary institutions of the colony are almost altogether unprovided for. I have stated in another part of this Report that the schools are unaided by any legislative grant or other provision from any public fund; they are under no legal or administrative control. The education afforded by them is not directed by any Government or official supervision, nor is it directed, so far as I can learn, into any immediately practical channel. A very small sum of money, which could be raised chiefly from the peasantry themselves, and perhaps by a special tax for the purpose, as in St. Kitts, would enable the Legislature to vest a control over these most important institutions in the local government, and to turn them to a good account. At present, reading and writing, especially if accompanied by a little arithmetic, are regarded rather as entitling the possessor to an exemption from honest labour than as aids to practical usefulness and moral elevation. The religious instruction afforded too, it will be found, consists more in the repetition of verbal answers to set questions than in the cultivation of the moral qualities, or the real enlightenment of the mind to the duties and responsibilities of life. By raising the necessary funds by a special tax, rather than by making them a charge upon the general revenue, the negro would, I believe, be to some extent the more readily induced to send his children to the schools; for the negro likes to have value for his money, and he would be anxious most likely to secure, by the regular attendance of his children at school, what he would consider his full share of the returns for the money taken from him by the tax gatherer. If possible, it would be desirable to provide rewards or prizes, payable in money, to the children for their regular attendance, and this would, by acting on the parents' cupidity, as effectually secure the regular attendance of the children as any law providing for a compulsory attendance. Some such inducement will too, I think, be more particularly necessary in an island where the share or meta system prevails to the extent it does in Nevis. The labourer makes use of his children in the cultivation of his cane field,—cupidity is a leading feature in the negro character,—and he is not willing, without some inducement in the shape of a visible return, to part, even for a limited time, with that which he finds immediately profitable, and regards as his right. The prospective advantage to the child cannot be expected to weigh much with a parent utterly ignorant himself, and unable therefore to appreciate the advantages of education. It is to be feared, too, that even the better-informed classes in these islands are not alive to the value of a sound practical education of the labouring classes in a social and economical point of view.

11. I do not place much reliance on the school returns, as I have observed elsewhere (for my experience in Nevis is very limited) that there is a tendency on the part of the parties making these returns to swell the numbers; but if the returns be correct, the average number of children annually under instruction in the several day schools, for the past five years, has been 770, giving a proportion of about eight per cent. (8·10) to the population. The returns do not enable me to distinguish the sexes.

12. There are, in this island, five parish churches under the ministration of three clergymen, the parishes of Saint John and Saint George, and those of Saint Thomas and Saint James being united. These clergymen are all holders of sugar estates, and as their stipends are not regularly paid from the Treasury, much of the time which should be directed to the spiritual oversight of their cures is necessarily given to the management of their private properties, and they cannot exert that moral influence over the people which would attach to the full exercise of their pastoral office. There are three Wesleyan chapels served, at present, by one missionary from England, with the assistance of the usual "local preachers." Another minister is promised, but has not yet arrived.

13. I ought, perhaps, to glance at a sect of professed religionists extant in this island, and peculiar to it—the "Noahites." I have been unable to obtain much information concerning these people, nor have I had an opportunity of personally observing their religious rites. I cannot learn that they hold any distinctive creed on doctrinal points, though they claim prophetic inspiration, and pretend to a familiar intercourse with the world of spirits. They marry and baptize their children in the churches and chapels, but assemble together in a separate congregation for religious worship, of which saltation is said to form a prominent feature. In their discipline they insist on frequent ablutions, abstinence from intoxicating liquors, and from the use of tobacco; concubinage is forbidden, and monogamy is inculcated. They have recently purchased an allotment of land, for the erection of a place of worship.

14. The common gaol and house of correction, which was burnt down in August last, has not been rebuilt; and the only place of confinement for prisoners is afforded by the cells formed within the archway of the stone gallery, which ran along the western entrance of the old building. These cells are not adapted to the purpose to which they have of necessity been applied; and, in the case of a debtor or misdemeanant of the first class, the confinement would entail a degree of punishment not contemplated by law, and not, indeed, to be tolerated in a civilized community under any circumstances short of the absolute necessity for some temporary means of maintaining civil order and the enforcement of civil duties and contracts. There is no hospital or sick ward, and it has been found necessary to release sick prisoners because of the impossibility of applying curative treatment. In the case of criminals the Executive has, of course, the power, by the remission of the imprisonment, to do this; but in case of the serious illness of a debtor under execution at the suit of an obdurate creditor, an embarrassing difficulty might arise. The subject of providing a new prison has been urged on the attention of the legislative branches by the Executive, and a committee to consider the subject has been appointed; but there is too much reason to fear that, under the present system of legislation, progress in this important measure will be, notwithstanding the vigorous application of the executive spur, as in almost every other case, slow. The destruction of the old prison by fire has only rendered more apparent the necessity for a new gaol. The former one was not adapted to its purpose; it had formerly been a large barrack, built for the accommodation of soldiers. It was situated in one of the most pleasant spots in the neighbourhood of Charlestown, commanding a beautiful land and marine view, surrounded by an open space of green turf, unenclosed, and free on all sides to communication with visitors and strangers; and the prisoners under sentence could scarcely be said to be deprived of liberty, there being no means of effectually controlling communication with the exterior. Imprisonment, therefore, had no deterring operation on the idle and criminal population, who were too apt to regard a short imprisonment, such as the magistrates have power to award on summary conviction, rather as an agreeable variety from the tedium of their ordinary life than as a penal restriction. It has, therefore, been said that the burning of the gaol was rather a public benefit than a public injury; but this is a popular mistake, for the prisoners can only be confined during the night, and must, of necessity, from the intense heat of the cells under exposure to the sun, be released during the day. There has indeed been a marked diminution in the number of commitments lately, but this I do not attribute in any great degree to severer punishment now attending the imprisonment, but rather to a greater care on the part of the magistrates to give effect to the law of the island regulating summary convictions before justices of the peace, taken from the Act of the Imperial Parliament 11 & 12 Vict. cap. 43., commonly called Jervis's Act, whereby justices of the peace are enabled to order the collection of fines and costs by warrant of distress. This provision of the Act does not seem to have been acted upon previous to the arrival here of the second stipendiary magistrate. Courts of Petty Session have too, since this arrangement, been held more punctually, and as so much time has not been lost as formerly in prosecuting complaints, the people have been induced to take their differences before the magistrate, rather than to right themselves by the strong hand; hence there have been fewer cases of aggravated assault, and fewer cases are taken, therefore, before the Superior Court, justice being more prompt, and, if I am rightly informed, its summary administration commanding more respect and confidence. There is still room, however, for improvement in the summary Courts, and I am of opinion that their efficiency would be greatly increased if, instead of the present Petty Sessions, Police Courts were established, with enlarged jurisdiction, extending to petty trespasses, contracts between master and servant, and with power to compel husbands and parents to maintain their wives and

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children. This proposed Court should be presided over by a stipendiary magistrate, or, in case of there being no stipendiary magistrate, by some local justice specially appointed to the office of chairman by the officer administering the government, with whom any local justice might associate; but such chairman sitting alone should be invested with the power of hearing and determining all cases which now require two magistrates. The system of associating magistrates sitting in rotation is a bad one, and under it no uniformity of decision can be obtained, regularity of proceeding cannot be observed, and the summary Courts lose that prestige which would otherwise attach to them, and so greatly enhance their influence and usefulness.

15. The provision afforded by legislative grant to the support of the poor and infirm is utterly insufficient. There is a small building situated at the northern entrance to Charlestown, and called the "asylum"; but the sum granted, including out-door pensioners, for its support—150*l.* sterling—is quite inadequate to meet the claims of the unfortunate class for whose relief it is intended. The institution is not provided with proper nurses, nor is there any medical officer attached to it. A surgeon is called in on any special emergency, chiefly when casualties occur requiring some of the major operations of surgery. The asylum is not under any proper control and supervision, and were it not for the charitable exertions of private individuals, and chiefly of Mr. Iles, whose watchful and zealous guardianship keeps it alive, it would entirely fall to the ground. The neglect of this institution illustrates the somnolency of colonial legislators, and their apathetic indifference to some of the most important duties and obligations devolving upon them, and will, I think, go to strengthen my argument in favour of a change in the legislative constitution of the island. The Executive Government has practically no voice in the initiation of measures of good government, and thus questions not affecting the individual interest of legislators are apt to be disregarded. "Amor patriæ" is not a West Indian sentiment. It would be otherwise if, as in the Crown colonies, a governor directly responsible to the Imperial Government had a voice in originating measures providing for the wants of the community, instead of, as at present, a mere controlling power over bad legislation by the exercise of a veto.

16. The laws of Nevis are not printed, and can only be known to judges and magistrates by reference to the manuscript copies in the secretaries office. They are not indexed, and it is a matter of some difficulty to find out whether a particular Act, or a particular provision of some enactment, has or has not been repealed. Legislation, too, appears to be cumulative in some and contravening in other instances; some of its provisions are, to say the least, unsuited to the present day. I would refer, for instance, to a case which lately came before me; the charge was one of obeah, an offence very common in this island, and leading in many instances to other offences of a most serious nature; and in the case to which I allude there was every reason to believe that an attempt has been made to poison, by the introduction of some deleterious material (arsenic it was supposed) into a tank of water kept for family use; this, however, could not be established, as the tank had been emptied of its contents and washed out before information reached the magistrates, so no prosecution for an attempt to poison could be supported; and on referring to the law, I found that the offence of obeah was triable before two magistrates, and the punishment was death, and death only, on their order. It will be needless to say, that the magistrates deemed the law practically obsolete, and allowed the case to drop as quietly as they could; but that such an Act should, by its retention on the Statute Book, be permitted to disgrace a civilized community, seems to me so incredible, that although I know the fact to be incontrovertibly true, I can scarcely believe it myself. In short, the criminal law of Nevis calls loudly for revision and consolidation. At present it is merely a collection of indescribably confused materials.

> "A rude and undigested mass,
> A lifeless lump, unfashioned and unframed,
> Of jarring seeds, and justly Chaos called."

17. The executive arrangement for combining the office of Chief Justice of Nevis with that of St. Christopher must, in the absence of all suitable provisions for the local support of a professional gentleman duly qualified by learning, ability, and standing to fill the important position, be highly beneficial to the community; and there can be no doubt that this arrangement will tend to promote good order and to strengthen and confirm the people in the purity of the general administration of the judicial department.

18. The islands are separated by a very narrow channel; access to each other is attended by no difficulty, and a more intimate union, if practicable, by the junction of the two islands into one colony would perhaps promote the interest of both. I should fear that in referring to this subject, I was going beyond my own province, were it not that your Excellency has done me the honour to invite me to an unrestrained exposition of my views. I can only hint cursorily at the subject, but I venture to suggest it as one worthy the attention of a Governor taking deep interest in the welfare of the colony over which he has been called to preside.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ISIDORE P. L. DYETT.

President Sir Arthur Rumbold, Bart.,
&c. &c. &c.

Sub-Enclosure 2. in No. 20.

A.

1847.	1848.	1849.	1850.	1851.	Total.	Average.
REVENUE.						
£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
5,927 0 2	3,211 12 7	3,033 9 11½	3,262 13 4½	3,755 16 8	19,190 12 9	3,838 2 6½
EXPENDITURE.						
5,332 2 9½	2,724 19 6	2,853 1 1	3,539 1 10	3,736 6 5	18,185 12 5½	3,637 2 5¾

1852.	1853.	1854.	1855.	1856.	Total.	Average.
REVENUE.						
£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
3,601 2 7	3,065 18 3	4,252 8 5	3,442 19 11	3,420 7 3	17,782 15 7	3,556 11 1¼
EXPENDITURE.						
3,688 12 1	3,265 15 9	4,220 7 10	3,132 14 2	3,265 0 6	17,572 10 4	3,514 10 0¾

N.B.—The apparent excess in the Revenue and Expenditure of 1847 is to be accounted for by part of a loan from Her Majesty's Government of 2,400*l.* for reconstructing public buildings thrown down by the earthquake of 1843.

B.

QUINQUENNIAL AVERAGES.

1847–51.	1852–56.	Total.	Average.
REVENUE.			
£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
3,838 2 6½	3,536 11 1¼	7,374 13 7¾	3,687 6 9½
EXPENDITURE.			
3,637 2 5¾	3,514 10 0¾	7,151 12 6½	3,575 16 3¼

C.

REVENUE.

Import.	Package.	Export.	House, Land, and Income Tax.	Horse, Cart, Carriage, and Road Composition.	Sugar Estates.	Canoes.	Cattle.	Liquor Licences.	Fines.	Total.
£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
451 7 7	41 17 1	68 15 1	779 11 6	119 6 6	1,215 0 9	42 9 9	125 9 3	140 0 0	91 14 0	3,075 1 6

EXPENDITURE.

Civil.	Judicial.	Ecclesiastical.	Police.	Gaol.	Repayment of Loan.	Roads.	Poor Relief.	Sanitary Purposes.	Total.
£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
798 3 6	314 11 0	892 0 11	164 2 6	338 10 2	345 9 3	123 8 9	162 0 0	62 9 9	3,200 6 10

D.

1847.	1848.	1849.	1850.	1851.	Total.	Average.
IMPORTS.						
£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
37,103 1 9	21,261 2 3	16,080 0 0	16,474 7 8	16,483 19 11	107,402 11 7	21,480 10 5¾
EXPORTS.						
78,405 15 1	23,593 1 11	30,284 14 8	17,197 14 6	35,012 5 0	184,493 11 2	36,898 14 2¾

1852.	1853.	1854.	1855.	1856.	Total.	Average.
IMPORTS.						
£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
17,866 12 0	20,975 15 0	20,933 9 0	19,728 6 0	34,449 6 4	113,953 8 4	22,790 13 8
EXPORTS.						
27 688 19 0	36,064 12 0	32,794 18 0	38,976 15 0	27,194 15 3	162,720 19 3	32,544 3 10

E.

QUINQUENNIAL AVERAGES.

1847–51.	1852–56.	Total.	Average.
IMPORTS.			
£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
21,480 10 3¾	22,790 13 8	44,271 3 11¾	22,135 11 11¾
EXPORTS.			
36,898 14 2¾	32,544 3 10	69,442 11 11¾	34,721 9 0¼

F.

RETURN of the Number of Persons committed to Gaol during a period of 16 months, from January 1, 1856, to April 30, 1857.

1856–57.	Natives.	English.	Foreigners.	Total.	Sentenced to Hard Labour.	Committed by Magistrates.	Committed by Court of Queen's Bench, &c.	Debtors.
January - -	7	—	—	7	3	7	—	—
February - -	12	—	—	12	11	7	4	—
March - -	18	—	—	18	1	8	—	1
April - -	8	—	—	8	—	—	—	—
May - -	10	1	—	11	1	—	—	1
June - - -	16	—	—	16	4	7	2	—
July - -	20	—	—	20	1	9	1	—
August - -	17	—	—	17	2	6	—	—
September - -	11	—	—	11	3	8	—	—
October - -	12	—	—	12	2	3	1	—
November -	7	—	—	7	1	3	—	—
December - -	8	—	—	8	4	5	1	—
January - -	7	—	—	7	2	2	—	—
February - -	6	—	—	6	1	2	—	—
March - -	6	—	—	6	1	4	—	1
April - -	6	—	—	6	1	2	1	—

Mr. A ILES, Private Secretary.

VIRGIN ISLANDS.

No. 21.

No. 21.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor HAMILTON to the Right Honourable H. LABOUCHERE, M.P.

(No. 48.) Leeward Islands, Antigua, May 8, 1857.

(Received June 2, 1857.)

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit the "Blue Book" of the Virgin Islands for the year 1856, with a Despatch of the President enclosing a Report drawn up in reference to these returns by Mr. Pedder, who administered the Government during the period occurring between the departure of Mr. Kortright and the arrival of the present President. No. 10, 25 March 1857.

2. As was represented on a former occasion, the proximity of St. Thomas to the Virgin Islands has a marked effect on the habits of the population of these islands, rendering them unsettled and roving; and the past year has witnessed a manifestation, although on this occasion unimportant, of an inclination to turbulence.

3. The transactions of one year are so similar to those of another in these islands that their condition does not require further report.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. H. Labouchere, &c. &c. &c. (Signed) KER B. HAMILTON.

Enclosure in No. 21.

Encl. in No. 21.

COPY of a DESPATCH from President PRICE to Governor HAMILTON.

(No. 10.) Government House, Tortola, March 25, 1857.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit the Blue Book of 1856, together with a Report drawn up at my request by the Hon. R. G. Pedder, member of the Executive Council, and lately in the Administration of the Government of the Virgin Islands during the period intervening between Mr. Kortright's departure and my own arrival.

2. My own experiences during the short period of three weeks which has transpired since the latter date were, in my opinion, insufficient to authorize me to remark upon circumstances which required a closer observation than I have necessarily been able to devote to them. I, therefore, availed myself of Mr. Pedder's willing services rather than transmit such a compendium without a Report.

I have, &c.

His Excellency the Governor-in-Chief, &c. &c. &c. (Signed) T. PRICE.

Sub-Enclosure in No. 21.

In order to give a clear exposition of the financial condition of the colony for the past year, I have annexed a statement shewing the fixed and incidental revenue and expenditure, and the relative balances for the years 1855 and 1856, by which there appears a deficiency in the revenue of 1856 of 159*l.* 3*s.* 8½*d.*

By the provisions of the Poor Law Ordinance now in operation, there is a fixed grant of 100*l.* sterling for the maintenance of the poor, and further allowance for a matron of the infirmary, and for nourishment for such of the inmates of that establishment as may require it.

It is not likely that the expenditure in this department under the present arrangements will exceed 130*l.*, which will be a reduction of at least 70*l.* per annum upon the former establishment. A suite of rooms belonging to the premises formerly occupied by the poor having been converted into an infirmary, it is contemplated to fit up the main building for a court house, by which a saving of 40*l.* per annum will be effected. Even with these reductions it

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would still appear that the revenue is inadequate to the requirements of the colony, although it may be remarked, that the receipts under the head of incidental have been unusually small, while items of an extraordinary character appear on the side of expenditure.

	£	s.	d.
Balance in hand, 1st January 1846	134	4	1½
Less balance on old estimate, poor and infirm, while at Kingston	40	8	0½
Available balance	93	16	1
Fixed revenue for 1856 — £1,196 13 1½			
„ expenditure — 885 0 8¼			
Balance — 311 12 5¼			
Incidental revenue — 228 8 5			
Expenditure — 628 12 10¾			
Deficiency — 400 4 5¾			
Total revenue, including balance 134*l.* 4*s.* 1½*d.*	1,559	5	8
„ expenditure, including arrears, 1855	1,554	1	7½
Balance in hand	5	4	0½
Due public officers to 31st December 1856	70	11	8
Less balance in hand	5	4	0½
	65	7	7½
Available balance from 1st January 1856	93	16	1
Total deficiency of revenue raised in year 1856	159	3	8½

There have been ten Ordinances passed by the Legislative Council during the year, viz.:—

" An Ordinance for appointing Pound Keepers and Pounds, and for regulating " the same."

" An Ordinance to oblige Creditors to pay a daily Sum to their Debtors " confined in the Common Gaol, as and for Maintenance during Confine- " ment."

" An Ordinance for further improving the Administration of Criminal " Justice."

" An Ordinance to reduce the Rate of Interest in these Islands."

" An Ordinance for the Management of Salt Ponds."

" An Ordinance to amend an Act entitled ' An Act to provide for the " ' appointment of one or more Sub-Treasurer or Sub-Treasurers to aid and " ' assist the Treasurer of the Virgin Islands in the Collection of the Revenue " ' of the said Islands.' "

" An Ordinance for the Relief of the Poor of these Islands, and for regulating " the Distribution of such Relief."

" An Ordinance declaratory that the Term ' Chief Judge,' or ' Chief Justice,' " or ' Assistant Justice ' of the Court of Common Pleas, used in any Act " or Ordinance of the Virgin Islands, shall be construed to mean the " Chief Judge or Assistant Judges respectively of the General Court and " for the Virgin Islands."

" An Ordinance to appropriate the Revenue of the Virgin Islands."

" An Ordinance to establish a Court for the Administration of Justice in " Civil and Criminal Matters in the Virgin Islands."

With respect to the Ordinance for the management of salt ponds, it is to be hoped that in the present year some beneficial results will be obtained by the operation of the new law. The month of May being the usual season for reaping the salt crops, the inhabitants of the several islands will then have an opportunity of applying their energies to the improvement of the ponds, which, with some amount of labour and attention, and under the protection afforded by this law, may be rendered a fruitful source of profit.

VIRGIN ISLANDS.

On the reappointment of a Sub-Treasurer, the sphere of duty of that officer was wisely fixed at the west end of the Island of Tortola, by which arrangement facilities are afforded to parties trading from that neighbourhood to procure clearances, and enter vessels taking cargoes to and from the Island of St. Thomas, and has had the effect of checking the intolerable practice of evading the payment of Export Duties in that part of Tortola and the islands adjacent.

Under the ordinance for the relief of the poor a complete change has been accomplished in that department. The expense of maintaining the poor under the former Poor Law Act was considerably greater than the finances of the country could afford, and it was, therefore, expedient that some other mode of relief should be adopted by which the expenditure should be diminished, but due regard had to the future support of the inmates of the asylum. When the new law came into operation most of the inmates were discharged with a weekly allowance, varying according to the state of health of the several individuals, and their ability to contribute to their own maintenance by manual labour.

An infirmary has been established, where surgical or medical aid is afforded to persons requiring such, and a few of the inmates of the former establishment have been retained, and receive the necessary attention.

The first Court under the New Court Ordinance at which cases were disposed of was held in the month of November, and its operation has been attended with very satisfactory results. By facilitating the proceedings of the Court, abolishing the grand jury, and thereby furnishing a much more intelligent and respectable body of men to act as petit jurors, and by relieving the jurors from much tedious and unnecessary attendance and loss of time, it has worthily elicited high commendations from all classes of the community.

There are two day schools in Tortola, in connexion with the Church of England, and one in Tortola, and another at Jost Van Dykes, under the superintendence of the Wesleyan Missionary Society.

There are also three Sunday Schools belonging to each of these establishments.

Another day school is in course of being established at Virgin Gorda under the auspices of the Church of England. It is very gratifying to be able to observe that the labouring population appear fully sensible of the advantages of education to their children, and that the latter manifest a great desire to benefit by the opportunity afforded them.

To be able to report favourably on the subject of crime for the past year affords me much happiness.

The calendar for the month of November shows a large addition to the number of criminals; but this was owing to the circumstance that the offences of which persons were convicted before the Court of November, had been spread over a period of twelve or fifteen months, in consequence of no Court having been held for that space of time.

The most heinous offence then dealt with was committed by a coloured woman, who, from feelings of jealousy towards a respectable female of the same complexion, incited others to the too frequently adopted crime of arson, and otherwise to destroy the property of the victim of her vile passion. This person was convicted under three separate indictments at the same Court.

The prison is in good order; but the solitary cells, which are apart from the main building, have been pronounced by the surgeon of the establishment as unfit to be occupied, owing to the dampness of the walls.

The labouring class throughout the islands have been generally orderly and quiet, and the only act of insubordination noted for the past year was committed by some persons at Thatch Island, who resisted constables in the execution of their duty; but prompt and energetic measures having been instantly adopted by the Government, they were soon quieted, and have been subsequently punished. On this occasion the rural constabulary of Tortola manifested great zeal and readiness to assist the authorities in suppressing the spirit of insubordination, and justly merit the approbation of the Government.

I have, &c.

Tortola,
March 24, 1857.

(Signed) R. G. PEDDER.

DOMINICA.

DOMINICA.

No. 22.

No. 22.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Governor Ker B. Hamilton to the Right Hon. H. Labouchere, M.P.

(No. 11.)

Leeward Islands, Antigua, May 8, 1857.

Sir, (Received June 2, 1857.)

I have the honour to transmit the Blue Book of Dominica for the year 1856, with the accompanying report of Lieutenant Governor Blackall.

2. This island, in common with others in the Leeward Islands' government, shows an increase of imports and an improvement in trade.

3. These features, however, are differently accounted for; while by some the increase of imports is attributed to the removal of all tax on imported merchandize, it is maintained by others, as in this Report, that a moderate import duty has no perceptible influence on trade.

4. I have endeavoured, as much as possible, not to interfere with financial arrangements, leaving it to the inhabitants of each government, through their authorized representatives, to adopt that system of taxation which may seem to them the best adapted to the colony. But I have sought to induce the colonists generally to adopt a permanent system of taxation, the necessity of which is beginning to be acknowledged by them.

5. The increased value of the chief exports of these colonies is renewing the hopes and expectations of the inhabitants, and again exciting enterprise.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. H. Labouchere, &c. &c. &c. (Signed) KER B. HAMILTON.

Encl. in No. 22.

Enclosure in No 22.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant Governor Blackall to his Excellency the Governor in Chief.

(No. 27.)

Government House, Roseau, April 28, 1857.

Sir,

I have the honour to forward to your Excellency the Blue Book for the year 1856, in triplicate.

Finance. 2. It is with much pleasure that I refer to the results shown in regard to the financial state of this colony by these returns, fully bearing out as they do my anticipations expressed in my report last year.

Revenue. 3. Not only is there a very considerable increase in the amount of revenue, but there is an equally marked improvement in the amount of imports, proving I think conclusively that, although it was found necessary to increase the duties on the importation of certain articles, the amounts have not tended to discourage commerce or trade, which have been steadily increasing.

4. Another gratifying feature in our present financial system is, the permanence of the general taxation. When I undertook the duties of administering the government here in 1851 I found all taxes imposed annually, with the exception of the duties leviable upon imports and tonnage; at this moment we have the above duties, rum duties, and a house tax permanently established, which raise sufficient revenue for the ordinary expenditure of the colony. With this year will expire an Act imposing duties on exports, a tax upon incomes, horses, dogs, &c., but some of which must be re-imposed for the purpose of meeting the extraordinary expenditure, and from which Act I trust the legislature will select the least objectionable imposts, and re-enact them in a permanent form; but I do not anticipate under any circumstances a return of the financial difficulties to which this island has been long subject.

Expenditure. 5. The expenditure here has long been remarkable for its economy, carried perhaps in some instances to an unwise extent. I have always advocated the judicious expenditure each year of a certain sum for the upholding and repair of public buildings, and prosecution of public works, but both have been hitherto retarded from the want of funds. We are now consequently obliged to incur considerably more expense for the former purposes, and to postpone

the execution of some valuable new works; but the past and present year will have witnessed our market house repaired, a new Government house built, a custom house belonging to the colony established (the present building being rented), whilst liberal grants have been made for the repairs of houses of worship, both Protestant and Roman Catholic.

Comparative Revenue and Expenditure of the last two years.

6. A reference to the tables in the paper marked A, appended to this report, will at once exhibit the difference of the absolute receipts and expenditure of the two years 1855 and 1856, and the causes which may be supposed to have led to the results therein described. These tables have been drawn with much care by the Auditor General, and the increase of expenditure, it will be seen, may at once be accounted for under two items,—one the miscellaneous expenditure, created by the buildings and repairs to which I have adverted, exceeding the former year by 808*l.* 9*s.* 10*d.*; the other the increase in the amount of poor relief in the sum of 323*l.* 12*s.* 3*d.*

7. But in reviewing the items which, from the increase of the revenue from 7,336*l.* 14*s.* 5*d.* in 1855 to 12,918*l.* 14*s.* 4*d.* in 1856, or fully two thirds, it is gratifying to observe that the increase is not in the main owing to any additional taxation. The taxes leviable during the two years were the same, with the exception of certain import duties, which were increased towards the close of 1855; but the total value of goods imported under an ad valorem duty in 1856 will be found to be 24,190*l.* 8*s.* 5*d.* against 10,548*l.* 19*s.* 6*d.* in 1855, being more than double, whilst the specific duties will also be found to have increased from 2,530*l.* 8*s.* 3*d.* to 3,788*l.* 4*s.* 3*d.*; about one half.

8. Nor does this, I am happy to say, appear to have been a mere temporary improvement. The first quarter of this year shows a steady amount of trade, and these hopeful appearances are well supported by the prospect of a plentiful crop and remunerating prices, and I shall indeed be much disappointed if the close of this year does not witness this island in a fairly solvent condition, both as regards the public finances and the general condition of the proprietors.

General state and prospects of the colony.

9. It has never been my wish in these annual reports to give too high a colouring to the state or prospects of the colony. I have never concealed my opinion of the many improvements which are required in the social condition of the inhabitants, nor respecting the deficiency in legislation, and the cause of it; and if now, after considerable experience, I may venture an opinion as to the causes which have, through any instrumentality of mine, led to improvements, I would point to a fixed determination, from which I have never swerved, to ensure as far as possible the strict administration of justice, and respect for the rights of property, more especially in the repression of the illegal possession of land; and I feel satisfied that a steady perseverance in that course, in all islands similarly circumstanced to this, as regards waste lands, will contribute much more to their prosperity than importing coolies or Chinese at an exorbitant expense.

10. But, in pursuing this course, I have never shut out, even from the humblest individual, the hope that he may, by honest industry, acquire for himself an interest in the soil. Whenever villages had been originally established, or small lots of lands were for sale which had reverted to the Crown, I have established a scale of price for the purchase which has enabled the labourer to become proprietor, only stipulating that the lot granted shall be well defined, and the purchase duly recorded, so as to prevent disputes hereafter.

11. I have endeavoured equally to check what was becoming a crying evil here,—the taking possession of Crown lands without right or title. At first I met with much opposition and misrepresentation, but few will now be found not ready to allow, that, for the advantage of the people themselves, it is better that what they occupy should be occupied legally; that the withdrawing of numbers from their natural occupations as field labourers is an evil, not only directly to the planter who would employ them, but to society in general; that their own civilization is thereby retarded, as they are content with a bare existence and the enjoyments of a semi-barbarous life, whilst they do not contribute in any way to the general prosperity or income of the colony.

12. It has been with much satisfaction I have found that the complaints of want of labour have been diminishing from year to year, and that I am at present assured there is a fair supply on all the estates in the island.

Crime.

13. This evidence of industrial habits on the part of the bulk of the population is corroborated by the general absence of crime of any alarming nature. The

DOMINICA.

addresses of the present Chief Justice to the grand jury on the two occasions on which he has presided at Grand Sessions bear testimony to this fact, and they also contrast favourably with the remarks on the same subject in some of the neighbouring islands, and the result is a greater amount of general comfort and independence amongst the labouring class than in any similar grade of any community with whom I have been brought in contact.

Efforts of the clergy.

14. To the zeal and energy also of the clergy of the several denominations must be attributed much of the good order and good feeling which prevail; but, as the bulk of the population is of the Roman Catholic persuasion, it is on the ministers of that religion the chief responsibility rests. A resident curé is appointed in nearly every parish in the island, supported entirely by voluntary contributions, there being no allowance made by the colony. Their devotion to the well-doing of those intrusted to them is deserving of great praise, and the efforts made under the able and sensible guidance of the Vicar-general, Dr. Smith, who resides in Roseau, have contributed much to the improvement of the population, and the infusion of a spirit of loyalty and obedience to the laws, — from which, it has been proved by recent events, it would be difficult to seduce them. I do not intend by these remarks in the least to underrate the value of the services of the Protestant rector of Roseau, or of the dissenting ministers.

Education.

15. The education of the rising generation has always occupied a very prominent amount of attention combined with liberality of the legislative bodies; unfortunately here, as elsewhere, difficulties have been raised, upon what I cannot but designate imaginary dangers, which seriously threaten the success of any measure; but I trust before the end of this year some arrangement may be arrived at which, while ensuring due supervision, may give encouragement to the various ministers of religion to advance and foster both the secular and religious instruction of the lower orders of their several flocks.

Jail discipline.

16. I think I may refer with some confidence to the paper marked B, appended to this report, as a proof that the jail discipline here is of a restraining or reformatory character. It will appear, by inspection of that paper, that out of ninety-nine persons convicted at Grand Sessions during my administration here, only eight have returned to prison a second time, and only one more than twice; and the conduct of prisoners in general in the jail is of a satisfactory character; and I have found occasional clemency, after culprits have had some experience of the inconveniencies of a prison life, to have an excellent effect upon their future conduct.

Legislation.

17. The legislation of the past year has been productive of some good, but still it is much confined to matters of finance. I have so often and so fully explained my views on this subject that I do not think it necessary to dwell upon it.

Returns not accurate.

18. The Returns comprised in the Blue Book will, I believe, be found complete and in accordance with the instructions, excepting those respecting the imports, exports, and shipping. I append, in a paper marked C, a letter which I have received from the Treasurer, explaining the causes of some deviation in these returns from the printed forms, and though I cannot agree in all the conclusions at which that officer has arrived, as an excuse for this irregularity, yet I am aware that he has encountered some difficulty from the late period last year at which it was intimated that the forms would be altered.

Concluding remarks.

19. In concluding this report I by no means intend to assert that this island is on the high road to any unlimited prosperity, but I maintain that it possesses the elements of progressive improvement if carefully governed. Energy in all the public departments, and the example of the upper classes in restraining their passions, obeying the laws, and respecting authority, will soon have its effect on a well-behaved and impressible population, such as we have to deal with here; the former may be ensured by due executive supervision, but the latter of course must depend upon the good sense and good taste of those who claim to possess the confidence of the people, and to be the exponents of public opinion.

I have, &c.

(Signed) SAML. W. BLACKALL,

Lieut. Governor.

His Excellency the Governor in Chief,

&c. &c. &c.

A.

A STATEMENT showing the EXPENDITURE of DOMINICA for the Year ended the 31st day of December 1856, as compared with the Expenditure for the Year ended the 31st day of December 1855.

Heads of Expenditure.	Years ending 1st December 1855.	Years ending 31st December 1856.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Salaries	5,004 12 8	4,869 3 11	—	135 8 9
Pensions	67 12 1	67 12 1	—	—
Drawbacks	172 10 4	75 19 6	—	96 10 10
Gaols	199 18 3	323 17 1	123 18 10	—
Inquests	210 15 1	226 13 11	15 18 10	—
Constables	139 19 3	200 10 6	60 11 3	—
Poor Relief	1,138 10 5	1,462 2 8	323 12 3	—
Medical	10 4 2	7 7 0	- - -	2 17 2
Educational	800 0 0	800 0 0	—	—
Miscellaneous	863 4 2	1,671 14 0	808 9 10	—
Roads	637 19 5	700 12 0	62 12 7	—
Ordnance Property	- - -	35 15 5	35 15 5	—
Excise (Pay and Allowances of Officers)	- - -	45 15 4	45 15 4	—
	9,245 5 10	10,487 3 5	1,476 14 4	234 16 9
Deduct Decrease	- -	- -	234 16 9	
Increase of Expenditure in 1856 as compared with 1855			£ 1,241 17 7	

REMARKS.

Salaries.—The decrease under this head arises from the office of Chief Justice having been vacant for two months, and that of Superintendent of Police for nine months.

Gaols.—The increase under this head may principally be attributed to the high price of provision supplied for the prisoners in 1856.

Poor Relief.—The increase under this head may be set down to the facility with which persons can be placed on the pauper list under the present poor law.

Miscellaneous.—The increase under this head is occasioned chiefly by the repairs to public buildings now in progress.

Ordnance Property and Excise.—The expenditure under these heads appears for the first time in this account.

The difference under the other heads requires no comment.

The debt due by the colony at the end of 1855, exclusive of the Government loan, was 4,230*l.* 15*s.* 1*d.* The debt due at the end of 1856, exclusive of the said loan, was 1,110*l.* 2*s.* 9*d.*

MACNAMARA DIX,
Audt. General.

DOMINICA.

A STATEMENT showing the REVENUE of DOMINICA for the Year ended the 31st day of December 1856, as compared with the Revenue for the Year ended the 31st day of December 1855.

Sources of Revenue.	Years ending 31st December 1855.	Years ending 31st December 1856.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Import Duties - -	3,382 15 6	6,207 5 1	2,824 9 7	—
Tonnage Duty - - -	673 16 0	686 8 0	12 12 0	—
Exports - - -	1,095 2 2	1,107 2 7	12 0 5	—
Incomes, Male Servants, Horses, and Dogs - -	816 18 9	869 10 3	52 11 6	—
Canoe Licences - -	127 9 0	113 10 6	- - -	13 18 6
Seine Licences - - -	28 7 9	25 12 5	- - -	2 15 4
Auctioneer Licences - -	5 0 0	5 0 0	—	—
House Tax - - -	67 6 1	940 16 7	873 10 6	—
Rum Duties - - -	931 13 2	1,325 1 11	393 8 9	—
"Road Act, 1856" - -	- - -	1,317 17 10	1,317 17 10	—
Ordnance Property - -	- - -	87 4 0	87 4 0	—
Miscellaneous - - -	208 6 0	233 5 2	24 19 2	—
	7,336 14 5	12,918 14 4	5,598 13 9	16 13 10
Deduct Decrease -	- - -	- - -	16 13 10	—
			£ 5,581 19 11	

REMARKS.

The increase under the head of "Import Duties" is to a certain extent attributable to the increase in the rate of duty from 7½ per cent. to 10 per cent. on all non-enumerated goods, except machinery and plantation stores. The Act under which the latter rate is levied is permanent, and took effect on the 4th September 1855; whilst, therefore, it has been in operation for the whole of 1856, it affected the imports of one quarter—the last—of 1855 only. As the total amount of duty collected in 1856, however, is nearly double that of 1855, whilst the increased rate of duty is but one third, the increase in the amount collected must be attributed chiefly to more extensive importations, induced, it may be assumed, by the increasing prosperity of the island.

This view will in a great measure be borne out by the following statement:-

	1855.			
	7½ per Cent. ad valorem.		Specific and other Duties.	Total Duty collected.
	Value.	Duty.		
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
First 3 Quarters of the Year -	8,101 8 4	607 12 1	1,964 7 0	2,571 19 1
	10 per Cent. ad valorem.			
Last Quarter of the Year -	2,447 11 2	244 15 2	566 1 3	810 16 5
Total for the Year -	10,548 19 6	852 7 3	2,530 8 3	3,382 15 6
	1856.			
First 3 Quarters of the Year -	16,291 12 4	1,629 3 3	2,668 13 6	4,297 16 9
Last Quarter of the Year -	7,898 16 1	789 17 7	1,119 10 9	1,909 8 4
Total for the Year -	24,190 8 5	2,419 0 10	3,788 4 3	6,207 5 1

House Tax.—The increase under this head is occasioned by the collection for 1855 having been unavoidably postponed to the early part of 1856, so that in the latter year the tax for two years was received.

Rum Duties.—The increase under this head may principally be set down to the greater powers of Excise supervision given by the "Rum Duty Act, 1856."

"*Road Act*, 1856, *and Ordnance Property.*"—The receipts under these heads appear for the first time in this account.

The difference in the receipt under the other heads is so trifling as to need no comment.

MACNAMARA DIX,
Audt. General.

B.

RETURN of OFFENDERS sentenced by the Court of Grand Sessions more than once since the 1st of January 1852, out of 99 Convictions.

Offenders' Name.	Number of Times.	Nature of Offence.	When Sentenced.	Sentence.
1. Michel - -	Twice -	Cutting and wounding.	1852 Feb.	12 months' imprisonment and hard labour, with 1 month solitary confinement every 4 months.
		Do. do. -	1856 Aug.	12 months' imprisonment and hard labour, with 1 month solitary confinement every 2 months.
2. François, alias Callo -	Three times	Theft - -	1852 ,,	12 months' imprisonment and hard labour, with 3 of which in solitary confinement.
		Breaking open and stealing.	1854 Feb.	12 months' imprisonment and hard labour, with 15 days' solitary confinement in each 3 months.
		Theft in a dwelling house.	1855 Sept.	18 months' imprisonment and hard labour, of which 4 months' solitary confinement.
		Cutting and wounding.	,, ,,	2 years' imprisonment and hard labour.
		Contempt of Court	,, ,,	6 months' simple imprisonment.
3. John Pamello - -	Twice -	Stealing - -	1853 Feb.	3 months' imprisonment and hard labour.
		Manslaughter -	1855 Aug.	6 months' imprisonment and hard labour, the hard labour stayed by order of President.
4. Tanto - - -	Twice -	Theft - -	1854 Feb.	12 months' imprisonment and hard labour, of which 15 days solitary confinement in each 3 months.
		Do. - -	1855 ,,	2 years' imprisonment and hard labour, of which 3 months' solitary confinement each year.
5. Maxime Thomas -	Twice -	Sheep stealing -	1854 ,,	6 months' imprisonment and hard labour, of which 15 days' solitary confinement each 3 months.
		Assaulting a constable.	1857 ,,	12 months' imprisonment and hard labour, from 30th December 1856.
6. Sarah Fifine - -	Twice -	Theft - -	1854 Aug.	2 years' imprisonment and hard labour, of which 1 month's solitary confinement each 4 months.
		Do. - -	1857 Feb.	18 months' imprisonment from 26th January 1857, with hard labour during latter 9 months.
7. Charles Buleau -	Twice -	Do. - -	1855 ,,	1 year's imprisonment and hard labour, of which 15 days' solitary confinement in each 3 months.
		Do. - -	1857 ,,	2 years' imprisonment and hard labour, from 22d November 1856, of which solitary confinement the 15th and 18th months.
8. Maxime Michel -	Twice -	Assault with intent.	1853 Sept.	12 months' imprisonment with hard labour.
		Do. do. -	1854 Aug.	2 years' simple imprisonment.

(Signed) JOS. FADELLE,
Pro. Marshal.

Marshal's Office, April 20, 1857.

C.

Treasury, Dominica, April 23, 1857.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to report for your Excellency's information, that I have this day delivered to the Colonial Secretary the Tables of Statistics of Trade and Shipping required for the Blue Book for the year 1856.

The preparation of these documents has engaged all the time of the current year which the circumstances of health and the demand on me for the discharge of colonial duties would admit; my evening hours and Sundays have for a long period been necessarily and entirely devoted to this service.

But though I have thus laboured unremittingly, it is with much regret I have to state, that the tables do not supply all the information required.

DOMINICA.

Your Excellency is aware that up to the month of November in last year, the old forms for this service were in my hands; not anticipating any change, I had prepared my accounts in accordance with the forms, and these were in such a state of progress as to ensure the delivery of them at an early period this year.

In that month, however, the new forms were sent to me, by which it appeared that the work of above three quarters of the year must be laid aside as valueless, and the tables compiled from the books of the Treasury for the whole year must be begun afresh.

The difficulties I had to encounter in framing these tables, and which accounts for the want of adaptation between them and the forms, are as follows:—

The Treasury books having a special reference to colonial requirements, frequently give in one amount all the commodities imported on one occasion by a merchant, which are subject to an ad valorem duty. They thus fail to give the descriptions or quantities of such goods. Such are mentioned in the tables as "non-enumerated goods."

These records furnish the information as to the ports from which vessels arrive, and for which they clear; but they do not give the nationality of importing or exporting vessels.

The quantities of goods, as stated in these books, are given in so great a variety of forms as not to admit of my placing them under one general head.

The deficiencies of information here referred to could be supplied only by consulting original documents, a task which would involve so large an amount of application and toil as no constitution could bear; and also would delay the delivery of the tables to a very late period in the present year; I shall not, however, shrink from the task, should it under the circumstances be demanded from me, and the time required be allowed.

I have, however, taken care that the Treasury books shall be in future so prepared as to furnish all the information to which the forms refer for the present and future years.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JNO. PALMER,
Treasurer.

His Excellency the Lieut.-Governor
&c. &c. &c.

MAURITIUS.

MAURITIUS.

No. 23.

No. 23.

EXTRACT of DESPATCH from Governor HIGGINSON to the Right Honourable H. LABOUCHERE, M.P.

(No. 116.)

Mauritius, June 13, 1857.
(Received August 3, 1857.)

IN obedience to standing instructions, I beg leave to transmit herewith the Blue Book for 1856, together with the annual report on the general condition and prospects of the colony.

Encl. in No. 23.

Enclosure in No. 23.

Revenue and Expenditure.

1. The result of the year's financial operations has amply justified the favorable anticipations recorded in my last annual report. The revenue and expenditure were respectively 395,103*l.* 0*s.* 0¾*d.* and 326,580*l.* 12*s.* 1*d.*, leaving a surplus income of 68,522*l.* 7*s.* 11¾*d.* The revenue exceeded that of the previous year by 46,650*l.* 5*s.* 0½*d.*, and amounted to 65,262*l.* 1*s.* 8½*d.* in excess of the estimate. The comparative statements furnished by the auditor-general present in detail the items of which the increase of revenue is composed, and bear testimony to the undiminished elasticity of the colonial resources. An explanation of the increase of expenditure, aggregating 8,741*l.* 6*s.* 4¼*d.*, is afforded by the same documents.

2. The surplus revenue from 1851 to 1856 inclusive has averaged 39,440*l.* 7*s.* 7¼*d.* per annum, accumulating, with previous balances, a reserve fund of 290,996*l.* of which 188,796*l.* was, on the first instant, available for the unforeseen emergencies to which all governments are more or less

exposed, or for the construction of important works of public utility, to which latter purpose a considerable portion of this fund is now being applied.

3. With the extension of trade, agriculture, and population, expenditure has during the same period also increased, but in a much less ratio, averaging only 13,274*l.* 12*s.* 5¾*d.* per annum. The statement annexed marked A. gives the items of augmentation in detail. Sub-Encl. 1 in No. 23.

Imports, Exports, and Shipping.

4. The value of imports considerably exceeds that of 1855, being respectively 2,133,084*l.* 13*s.* 5*d.* and 1,356,300*l.* 15*s.* 3*d.*, whilst that of exports varies little, being respectively 1,804,123*l.* 2*s.* 0*d.* and 1,848,090*l.* 13*s.* 11*d.* The unusual excess of imports over 1855 and preceding year arises chiefly upon specie, but there is also an increase of several other articles, the details of which will be found in the accompanying statement* prepared by the acting collector of customs. A comparison of the relative value of imports and exports in 1856 gives 2,133,084*l.* 13*s.* 5*d.* against 1,804,123*l.* 2*s.* 0*d.*

5. The return of shipping shows the tonnage of entries, including British and foreign, to have been 240,840, against 215,856 in 1855, the excess being entirely on foreign vessels, British remaining stationary at about 155,000 tons. The clearances were somewhat less, but in like proportion.

6. The increment of shipments of sugar in foreign bottoms has been large, principally for France, that country having taken nearly a fourth of the whole crop. Shipments to the Australian colonies have likewise been in excess of former years, having reached 17,123 tons. This market has hitherto proved favourable to shippers, and is looked to as a remunerative and growing outlet for our produce.

7. A comparison of our limited trade with Madagascar shows little change. The imports and exports during 1856 having amounted to 41,877*l.* 7*s.* and 19,234*l.* 16*s.* respectively, the former consisting almost exclusively of oxen, through means of which our market continues to be well supplied with beef at reasonable prices.

Population.

8. Upon a comparison of the population return for 1856 with that for 1851, when the last census was taken, there appears to have been a considerable change in the relative proportions of the three classes into which the community is subdivided.

9. The Indian population has increased in the interval from 86,404 to 134,271, or about 36.7 per cent., while the ex-apprentices have decreased 16 per cent.; their number having been 48,366 at the end of 1851, and only 40,730 at the end of 1856. During the same period the general population has scarcely undergone any change; their numbers in 1851 amounted to 54,557, and in 1856 to 54,247, which shows a decrease of about 0.5 per cent. The consequence is that, whereas in 1851 the Indians formed only 45.5 per cent. of the entire population (29 per cent. of the remainder having been general, and 25.5 per cent. ex-apprentice,) at the end of 1856, 59 per cent. of the entire population were Indian, 23.5 per cent. were general, and 17.5 per cent. ex-apprentice.

10. The large decrease in the ex-apprentice population may be attributed chiefly to the fact that that class has, during each visitation of epidemic diseases, suffered more severely than any other. It amounted to 5.5 per cent. during 55–56, and to 9 per cent. during 53–54; out of the 16 per cent., therefore, which represents the total decrease in this class during the 5 last years, 14½ per cent. is ascribable to the effects of epidemic diseases. But even during the other three years, when there was no epidemic disease, the number of deaths in this class always exceeded that of the births; such was the case also in the Indian population; but immigration has far more than compensated for the decrease amongst the latter, whilst the former have received no accession to their numbers from without.

* Not printed.

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11. On the other hand, amongst the general population the births during the years 1852–53 and 1855 have been more in number than the deaths, as may be seen from the annexed statement.*

12. The mortality during the year 1856 amounted to 10½ per cent. amongst the ex-apprentices, to 3½ per cent. amongst the Indians, and to 4 per cent. amongst the general population. The number of births amounted to 4½ per cent. amongst the ex-apprentices, to 2 per cent. amongst the Indians, and to 3 per cent. amongst the general population. The net decrease, therefore, upon a comparison of deaths and births, was 6 per cent. amongst the ex-apprentices, 1½ per cent. amongst the Indians, and 1 per cent. amongst the general population. The total number of deaths in the entire population amounted to 9,172, of which 3,656 were caused by cholera.

13. In the year 1855, when there was no cholera epidemic, there was still a decrease of 1 per cent. amongst the ex-apprentices, the per-centage of deaths having been 5⅔, and that of births 4⅔. The deaths amongst the Indians were also slightly in excess over the births, the former having amounted to 2⅔, the latter to 1¾ per cent.; while there was an increase of about ¾ per cent. amongst the general population, the deaths having been 2¼ and the births nearly 3 per cent.

14. There have been 64 marriages amongst the Indian population during the year 1856, against 66 in 1855, 355 against 349 in the general population, and only 278 against 324 among the ex-apprentices.

Ecclesiastical.

15. The numerical strength of the ministers of the established church has recently received two additions; one gentleman employed by the Church Missionary Society to labour among the Indian immigrants, whose condition in this colony promises much encouragement to all missionary exertion; the other to serve the parish of Moka, hitherto united to that of Plaines Wilhems, under the pastoral care of one clergyman, the liberal endowment of £1,000 made by Sir William Gomm, late Governor of the island, having materially conduced to this long desired object, the interest therefrom, added to voluntary contributions, under ordinance 54 of 1844, forming the fund for the ministers' stipend.

16. The church of England now numbers nine ministers, including one at the Seychelles, being an increase of five since 1852; and in justice to Bishop Ryan I would add that to his extensive influence and earnest efforts this more commensurate provision for the ministration of the protestant church is in a great measure due.

17. The Roman catholic ecclesiastical establishment, to which so large a proportion of the colonists look for the services of their religion, still continues quite inadequate to the onerous duties devolved upon it, the arrangements sanctioned by Her Majesty's Government in 1854, for providing a larger staff of clergy, having failed to accomplish this object, as lately represented, in consequence of the insuperable repugnance and absolute refusal of the members of that church to assist in the obtaining of additional priests, by contributing to their salaries, under the provisions of ordinance No. 54. of 1844. Assuming this to be the fact (and being alleged by Bishop Collier, there can be no reason to question it), it appeared to me clearly the duty of Government to resort to other and more efficacious means for remedying the acknowledged deficiency; and should the measures suggested for this purpose be approved, this deside-

* General Population.

	M.	F.	Total.	
Births	901	821	1722	1852
Deaths	668	534	1202	
	233	287	520 Increase.	

	M.	F.	Total.	
Births	814	802	1616	1853
Deaths	666	507	1173	
	148	295	443 Increase.	

	M.	F.	Total.	
Births	803	801	1604	1855
Deaths	685	542	1227	
	118	259	377 Increase.	

ratum may be within a few years attained. Meanwhile the bishop and his clergy continue to labour with unabated energy for the moral and social improvement of the ex-apprentice population and their descendants, no impediments, however formidable, no toil, however harassing, appearing to divert them from this sacred duty.

18. The members of the church of Scotland are at present so few in number, that their spiritual necessities are amply provided for by one minister; whilst the dissenters in the colony form congregations under the ministry of three pastors, in connexion with the London Missionary Society, the senior of whom, Mr. Le Brun, has been for upwards of forty years a zealous and successful labourer amongst the coloured population.

Education.

19. This momentous question has continued to occupy much and careful attention, and not, it is hoped, without some beneficial results. Annexed are the annual reports from the rector of the Royal College, and the superintendent of Government schools; and these, although not announcing any very important changes, may be pronounced on the whole as tending to improvement. Sub-Encl. 2 in No. 23. Sub-Encl. 3 in No. 23.

20. I have separately submitted and recommended for approval a paper drawn up by the education committee with great care and knowledge of the subject, suggesting various reforms in the Royal College, which appear well calculated to promote the efficiency and extend the utility of this popular and valuable institution; and I indulge the hope that the elementary schools will derive substantial benefit from the seminary for training teachers about being opened in Port Louis, and from the other remedial measures in progress. The annexed tabular statement affords some interesting details, showing, amongst other results, that the average annual cost of each Government school, and of the tuition of each pupil, has been 222*l.* 2*s.* and 3*l.* 4*s.* 7$\frac{3}{4}$*d.* respectively.

21. The Mauritius Church Association continues to extend the sphere of its educational labours, and 10 new schools have been opened, under the auspices and by the indefatigable exertions of Bishop Ryan, principally for the instruction of Indian children through the medium of their vernacular dialects. Annexed is an interesting memorandum on the subject of these schools, furnished by the bishop at my request. Sub-Encl. 4 in No. 23.

22. A new seminary for the education of young girls of the better classes has also been commenced under the auspices of the Rev. J. Le Brun, of the London Missionary Society, with the object of filling a void which has long been felt in Port Louis.

23. Notwithstanding these indications of educational progress, there remains much more to be achieved before the righteous work can be matured. Amidst the various obstacles with which the friends of education have had to contend, the immoveable apathy and indifference of parents, and, with a few creditable exceptions, of employers, have proved most formidable; and, as the only hopeful means of effectually attacking the mass of ignorance and its concomitant evils into which the children of both the Indian and ex-apprentice population are plunged, it has been determined, after careful deliberation, to introduce a compulsory system of education, and an ordinance to give effect to this resolution is now before the legislature. The obstacles to be surmounted in enforcing the provisions of this ordinance, if it should be passed by the legislature, and be confirmed by the Crown, are not underrated; nor do I aver that its entire success can be confidently relied on; but in my judgment the salutary and beneficent ends in view may be held to justify the experiment, experience of the past having forced upon the Government the conviction that by no entirely voluntary system can the mass of the population be rescued from their present state of intellectual debasement, and less direct coercion, which has, in some other countries worked well, we have not here the material to fairly try.

Legislation.

24. Amongst the ordinances which have become law will be found several entitled to more than ordinary prominence, in the consideration of which the Legislative Council have afforded me the same valuable aid, and have manifested the same enlightened desire to advance the public welfare, as have been conspicuous on previous occasions. I would allude especially to those for promoting education amongst the poorer classes; for facilitating the marriages of Indian immigrants, and for the more summary punishment of abduction; for

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establishing a new tariff of judicial costs in all proceedings before the supreme court; for revising the table of fees receivable by public notaries; and for consolidating and amending the insolvent laws.

25. Having reported separately on these ordinances, I need here only remark that if the objects designed by their enactment be attained, valuable benefits will be conferred upon the colony. The three last-named may be considered as in continuation of those judicial reforms first commenced by my lamented predecessor Sir George Anderson; and these, with an ordinance now before the legislature, for amending the laws for the administration of vacant or intestate estates, will, I believe, complete the series of those reforms. The soundness of the policy that dictated some of the changes then projected, and since carried into effect, is still impugned by a section of the colonial bar and public; but the opposition has been gradually relaxing, and is, I apprehend, kept alive more by feelings of ancient nationality and traditionary prejudice than by conviction on a dispassionate review of the relative superiority of the former and present systems of judicature.

Civil Establishments.

26. These may on the whole be pronounced to rest on a satisfactory footing, and adequate to the various duties discharged by them. Salaries on a liberal scale are provided for the senior ranks of the service; but in some of the more subordinate departments there is yet room for augmentation, the expenses of living being exceedingly high as compared with other colonial possessions.

27. The necessity still remains for occasionally resorting to the United Kingdom for competent persons to fill the higher class of appointments; but I trust the time is not far distant when this necessity will no longer exist, and when the required qualifications for such offices will be found nearer home. In saying this, I do not undervalue the advantage of an occasional admixture of new blood, when the selection turns out a suitable one; nor do I question the policy that reserves to the metropolitan Government nominations to the highest and most responsible public offices.

28. Within the last few years several of the principal departments have been enlarged or re-organized,—the police,—the customs,—the colonial secretary's office,—the surveyor-general and civil engineer departments,— and those of education,—immigration,—civil status,—medical,—and quarantine, with a view to increased efficiency, and to meet the progressive requirements of advancing agriculture and commerce and of a rapidly spreading population. Some of these measures have necessarily involved considerable additional expense; and I remained for a time under the reproach of yielding too easily to the demands made upon me for augmentations of salary and extension of establishments. A further experience of the results of the measures referred to has strengthened the conviction I then entertained, namely, that their adoption was more consistent with true economy than to have these departments under-handed, and unequal to cope with the accumulated work devolved upon them.

Grants of Land.

29. A comparison of the return comprised under this head with that made for 1855 shows an increase of 10 in the number of lots of land disposed of by grant and purchase.

30. The value and extent of the available Crown lands are supposed to be inconsiderable; but this cannot be accurately ascertained until the proposed survey of all these lands throughout the island has been effected, when it is hoped that there will be an augmentation of the revenue derived from their source, as well from the sale of lands now unoccupied, as from leasing those the tenure of which is at present irregular and the title defective, and by the conversion of the old tenures termed "jouissances" into leases.

31. Unfortunately the progress hitherto made in this work has been slower than was at first expected, as it has not yet extended beyond a portion of the municipal boundaries of Port Louis; the cause of which has not long since been explained, and the steps taken to expedite the survey.

32. The measures adopted under ordinance No. 30. of 1854, "for amending the laws relating to the conservation of woods, forests, and rivers," have tended to check the depredations so frequently committed on the timber growing on the Crown reserves and on the borders of streams; but some of the provisions

of this ordinance, especially those requiring the replanting of lands belonging to individuals, and now under cultivation, have been found to interfere so much with the rights of private property, and to bear so hardly on the poorer class of petty proprietors, that a modification of them appeared to me unavoidable, and the amendments suggested by the operation of the law are about being submitted to the consideration of the Legislative Council.

Public Works and Roads.

33. Several extensive and useful works have been in progress during the year; vizt, the enlargement and improvement of the lunatic asylum, construction of new quarantine establishments at Flat Island and Cannonier Point, new jail and court house in district of Savanne, new bridges over Rivière La Chaux, Rivière Wilhems, St. Louis Creek, Rivières Cascade, Tamarind and Profonde. (Of these, the last three have been completed.) Erection of three aditional signal stations with semaphores to communicate with the Lazaretto on Flat Island, and of police stations in the Flacq and Black River districts.

34. Of the several new roads under construction, some are much advanced and others making fair progress. When finished they will open to cultivation tracts of country which, from their inaccessibility, have hitherto lain sterile, and will afford increased facilities of internal communication.

35. The amount expended on this service, including the improvement and repairs of existing roads, was 15,966*l.* 18*s.* 0½*d.*, and these latter have on the whole been maintained in good condition.

36. More effective arrangements have been made for the repairs of the bye and branch lines, which, from the failure of the partially voluntary system (that is, the cost being defrayed partly by Government, and partly by the inhabitants directly interested), as explained on a previous occasion, had fallen into so indifferent a state as in some instances to have become almost impassable.

37. The future annual charge for the maintenance of roads will probably exceed the expenditure incurred under the contract system; which, after an experience of several years, the Government has been compelled to abandon. This work is now performed by the surveyor-general's department, partly by hired and partly by convict labour; and it is hoped that the superiority of its execution will countervail the additional cost.

38. The construction of new roads is still thrown open to contract, but much difficulty is experienced in finding competent persons willing to accept them on reasonable terms.

39. The object of Government has been to gradually traverse the island with convenient roads, in order to facilitate the extension of cultivation, and the transport of the produce of the soil; and if the same liberal provision for this service should continue to be made for a few years more this important and reproductive end will be attained.

Jails, Prisoners, and Crime.

40. The criminal statistics attached to the annexed elaborate and comprehensive report presented by the Port Louis prison committee afford the means of approximately estimating the progress of crime during the last five years, and exhibits results which, taken as a whole, may be considered gratifying. Sub-Encl. 5 in No. 23.

41. In a large majority of the more heinous class of offences, such as murder, arson, poisoning, and larceny, with breaking or burglary, there has been a marked diminution in the years 1855 and 1856, compared with 1852 and 1853; whilst rape, perjury, petty assaults, and simple larceny have increased. Unnatural crimes, forgery, and coining remaining stationary. Although the information contained in the committee's report is confined to Port Louis, it may be taken as a fair criterion of the state of crime generally throughout the colony, as the town comprises more than a fourth of our whole population, and to its jail are committed all persons tried by the supreme court, the jurisdiction of district courts being limited to offences punishable by no more than one year's imprisonment and 50*l.* fine. The increased number of prosecutions for petty crimes is ascribed, and I think correctly, to the greater facilities derived from the establishment of district courts, and to the agency of a more numerous and effective police, to which may be added the annual addition to the Indian population, of whom this class of culprits is largely composed.

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42. The sanitary state of the jails generally continues very satisfactory, and the mortality amongst prisoners comparatively small. In the district establishments these are employed exclusively on the roads and public works; and although at such out-door work, it is more difficult to carry out a stringent system of discipline, it offers, in my opinion, the most profitable means of applying their labour, and is best suited to the capacity, the habits, and the health of the debased class of criminals from whom it is exacted.

43. In Port Louis jail the case is different. Convicts are here detained under long sentences, which admits of the adoption of a more reformatory and civilizing system, by employing them within the walls, teaching them useful trades and occupations, and endeavouring to bring them under those salutary influences, the regenerating power of which time and persevering effort can alone call forth. Such a system is now in partial operation, and with apparently good effect; and the committee have invariably manifested so much zeal, humanity, and judgment in discharging the duties confided to them, that I feel confident no opportunity of introducing further improvement will be overlooked.

44. One of the most serious obstacles to the effectual and beneficial carrying out of secondary punishments is the absence of a penal settlement. Sentences of transportation are necessarily commuted to penal servitude in the colony; but this falls far short of the objects in view, whether as regards deterring from crime or the reformation of criminals. To find an adequate remedy for this evil I have sought in vain. A convict establishment might, it is true, be formed on one of the uninhabited dependencies, but the expense to be incurred would be very large, and after its completion remunerative labour could hardly be looked for. Besides, it is doubtful whether the effect upon convicts would be the same as if transported to a foreign and more distant settlement.

Agriculture and Manufacture.

45. Some patents have been taken out in the course of the year for new improvements; but I do not learn that the value of any of these has proved such as to call for particular notice. The fact is that in the main the systems of both husbandry and manipulation of sugar generally pursued are so good as to leave little room for substantial amendment, although in some less essential points they are doubtless susceptible of amelioration. No reasonable expense is spared in the cultivation of the soil, the benefits of high farming being fully recognized. Great care is observed in the application of manures, the unrivalled fertilizer guano being the agent most in use.

46. The cane borer, by whose invasion so much alarm was excited in 1855, has not extended its ravages, but, on the contrary, seems to be gradually disappearing. The premium of 2,000*l.* offered by the legislature for the most efficacious and practical means of destroying the insect remains unawarded, whilst nature is steadily overcoming the evil, for which human discoveries have failed to find an effectual remedy.

47. The process of manipulation has of late years been brought to a high state of efficiency, as the quality and quantity of the sugar exported can testify. To further improvement in quality, the differential duties (against the impolicy and injustice of which I have so often supported the remonstrances of the colonists) constitute the only bar, as from this fertile soil and genial climate, by the aid of science and suitable machinery, sugar may be produced inferior to none that can be brought into competition with it; but when, as it is alleged, owing to the operation of these duties, the inferior qualities frequently yield a more remunerative return, the stimulus to improvement no longer exists.

Immigration.

48. From the three presidencies of India 12,655 immigrants were introduced within the year, of whom 3,525 were females, giving an aggregate Indian population on 31st December 1856 of 102,125 males and 31,446 females.

Sub-Encl. 6. in No. 23.

49. I annex two tabular statements, the one showing approximately the distribution and employment of the males, and which gives about 73,000 under engagements of service on the 15th December 1856, of whom, according to the estimate of planters, an average of 15 or 20 per cent. are absent from work on account of sickness, idleness, caprice, and vagrancy. The women very rarely work for hire, remaining in their huts engaged with their children or other domestic pursuits. The other statement,* showing the current rates of wages

* Being very voluminous, is not printed.

during the same year, averaging 13*s.* 8¾*d.* per month, exclusive of the usual rations, and of the bounties of late generally paid by planters, vying with each other to secure sufficient hands for their estates, and which may be equivalent to one or two shillings per month on the duration of engagements.

50. Since the interdict laid upon emigration by the Government of India, wages have gone up considerably, say from three to four shillings per month. High prices have likewise contributed to this rise. So long as these continue, employers can well afford to pay at the advanced rates, and it is but reasonable that the labourers should participate in the enhanced profits.

51. One result of the advance in wages has been to diminish by about two thirds, on a comparison of the first quarter of 1857 with the corresponding periods, in 1855 and 1856, the number of new immigrants paying the redemptory tax in order to relieve themselves from the obligation of the five years' industrial residence exacted from all immigrants introduced at the expense of the colony; and I am led to believe that it has also induced some old immigrants, who had abandoned employment on plantations, to return to them.

52. From places other than the continent of India, 1,008 immigrants only have been received. Those irregularly brought from Ibo and Aden have been specially reported; the few remaining were from Madagascar.

53. The suspension of Indian immigration naturally turned more attention to other sources of supply; China and the east coast of Africa attracting most prominent notice. On the proposals of the Chamber of Agriculture for encouraging immigration from these countries I have separately addressed you.

54. The obstacles to immigration from either country, consistently with the conditions on which alone it could be sanctioned, can, I fear, hardly be surmounted. These being, on the one hand, the insuperable impediments to women leaving China; and, on the other hand, the, I believe, established fact, that the freedom of all labourers brought from the east coast of Africa must be virtually purchased. On this latter point I annex a copy of a communication confirmatory of this view which reached me a few days since from Commodore Trotter, who has just returned from a cruize on that coast.

Sub-Encl. 7 in No. 23.

54. Although there exists a strong and general feeling in favour of African immigration, as subsidiary to that from India, I must do the planters of Mauritius the justice to say, that I have observed no desire on their part to compass it at the fearful cost of reviving or encouraging slave traffic in any sort of shape.

55. In regard to Madagascar there can be no doubt that a properly organized free immigration from the east coast of that island would be of great service. From thence the expense of transport would be comparatively small; and as to obtaining a due proportion of females there would be no difficulty, and the few men who have from time to time been brought here have made useful and industrious labourers; but to the immigration of her subjects the queen of the Hovas is resolutely opposed; and by attempting it to jeopardize the fruits of existing friendly relations, and of the re-opening of trade, would, I submit, be consistent neither with a wise policy nor with national faith. From amongst the tribes who are not yet subject to the queen's dominion, the information that has reached me of the prospect of procuring labourers is very discouraging; and these are besides, from their habits and pursuits, represented to be ill-adapted for purposes of agriculture. Commodore Trotter likewise alludes in his letter above referred to to an immigration that has been for some time carried on between the neighbouring island of Reunion and Madagascar, and to the encouragement which it has given to the importation of slaves from the African coast.

56. Mauritius being thus entirely dependent on India for labour, it seems indispensable to her industrial progress that the channel of supply should be wide and clear, unclogged with restrictions of any kind, save such as are required for the social and physical well-being of the immigrants, and for securing to them regular employment, remunerative wages, and general good treatment. All these conditions are rigidly exacted, and means are provided for the education of their children. Moreover, at the termination of their five years' industrial residence, they can either return to their native homes, with such a competency as there a whole life of toil would not amass, or they can settle in the colony in full enjoyment of the rights and immunities of British subjects. It is earnestly to be hoped then, in the interests alike of employers and employed, that no untoward event will again divert from Mauritius the current of this auriferous and beneficial stream.

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Dependencies.

57. Considerable difficulty is experienced in procuring reliable information of their condition and progress, in consequence of no constituted authority being placed in charge of any of these numerous and widely scattered islets (save the Seychelles group and Rodrigues), and of the uncertainty and irregularity of communication with them. But the annexed statistical return, though far from complete, is not devoid of interest, including the exports and their probable value from those inhabited during the last three years, consisting chiefly of cocoa nut oil, dried fish, and shingles, and also an estimate of the probable amount of population on each island.

Sub-Encl. 8 in No. 23.

58. Captain Peyton, of Her Majesty's ship "Frolic," who, at my request, was directed by Commodore Trotter to visit several of these dependencies, a few months since, states, in a report which has been communicated to Her Majesty's Government, that the labourers employed by the persons in occupation appeared to be satisfied and contented, and that no complaint was preferred to him, except at the Six Islands, where the manager had been murdered by a party of Indian labourers who had been surreptiously introduced from Cochin, ill treated, and detained there against their will. The details of this affair have already been communicated.

59. The annual report from the civil commissioner of Seychelles has not yet reached me; but I apprehend that there will be little to add to that of last year. I had hoped that these distant and isolated settlements would have profited by the more regular and rapid intercourse with Mauritius, through means of the postal service lately established with Aden; but, contrary to expectation, these steamers have hitherto run direct through, without touching at their coal depôt on St Anne's Island close to Mahé. I conceive, however, that this communication with Mauritius would, on many grounds, be so advantageous to this struggling community, that in any future modification of the contract it should be provided for.

60. The wants of the people of both the Seychelles and Rodrigues are few, and easily supplied. Fish is abundant, and land suited to the growth of those edibles which they principally consume. Moral and social influences have as yet made themselves but little felt; but the people are generally peaceable and orderly, and crime of the graver kind is almost unknown amongst them.

61. Bishop Ryan lately afforded the advantage of a pastoral visit to the Seychelles islanders, and was favourably impressed by the reception, and the desire manifested by the inhabitants for more extended means of religious instruction; and I am happy to add, that, through his lordship's exertions, the long projected church at Victoria (Mahé) is about being immediately commenced.

62. One chaplain of the established church, and two friars deputed by the Propaganda at Rome, minister to the spiritual wants of the Seychellois; whilst at Rodrigues this duty is performed by the occasional visit of a Roman catholic priest from Mauritius.

General Remarks.

63. There appears little to add to the facts recorded and the views embodied last year, at more than ordinary length, in a report which I then considered the last I should have the honour of presenting. I can, however, affirm, that there has been no interruption to the rapid march of improvement then depicted. It may in truth be said that during the year 1856 the colony was in possession of every element essential to successful industry;—a teeming harvest, a labour market well supplied and at reasonable rates, cheap and abundant food for men and cattle, freights low, and prices highly renumerative.

64. The crop reached about 110,000 tons, and realized a value that may safely be estimated at 2,242,000*l.*, fully one half of which may be considered clear profit, the other moiety covering all the expenses of production, of transport, and of sale. This large return, with that of the previous year, has gone far towards the release of those estates which less prosperous times had seen heavily embarrassed.

65. The prospects of the current year are no less fraught with promise; and should these, with God's blessing, be realized, and the wild speculation and blind prodigality too often consequent on high prices be avoided, the general solvency of the proprietory will be secured.

66. The progress of commerce and of other branches of industry keeps pace with the development of our agricultural resources, our little harbour being literally crowded with the shipping of all nations, while our wharves and stores,

now rapidly extending, present an uninterrupted scene of activity and bustle. The interest of money too has fallen with its fuller influx, and the pressure of discount on document bills has been proportionally lightened.

67. The great demand in Europe for sugar has led to the sale in severa instances of the crops still on foot, at very high figures, ranging, I am informed, from 24*s*. to 32*s*. per cwt., principally for French manufacture; and I may add, that reliance on the prospect of the home market has induced the rejection in others of similar offers.

68. In addition to the other advantages thus enjoyed by this thriving and prosperous community, the colony has at length obtained that of a regular and rapid communication with Europe, our monthly postal steamers to Aden enabling us to receive intelligence from the mother country in 30 days. The worth of this boon is appreciated by all; from the merchant, to whose transactions the earliest advices of the state of markets in Europe is so valuable, to the public officers and soldiers of the garrison, to whom the latest news from their home and country is looked for with never ceasing and anxious interest.

69. The great mortality caused by the epidemic visitations of cholera and small-pox, already noticed under the head of "Population," forms the only dark shade in the otherwise bright picture of Mauritian affairs; but these are calamities against which no human foresight can avail, though man's will and power, in preparing for the invasion of disease, may mitigate its severity, and tend to prevent its recurrence. It would be superfluous to affirm, that to compass these ends the endeavors of the local Government have been actively and continuously directed, had not a diversity of opinion on the theory of contagion led a portion of the community to a different conclusion, inducing the supposition that because I could not with them profess a boundless reliance in the efficacy of quarantine, its regulations could not therefore be heartily enforced, and that the colony had thereby been a prey to evils from which more stringent precautions might have shielded it.

70. To sum up in a few brief words, I shall resign my honourable and honoured trust in the full confidence of hope for the perpetuation of those inestimable blessings which, under the good providence of God, the people of Mauritius now enjoy, and with humble thankfulness to Him that I have been allowed to witness the consummation of a work to the furtherance of which my best energies have been long and earnestly devoted.

(Signed) J. M. Higginson.

Mauritius, June 13, 1857.

Sub-Enclosure 1 in No. 23.

Statement showing the Annual Expenditure from 1851 to 1856, under the following heads:—

	1851.			1852.			1853.			1854.			1855.			1856.		
	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
Establishments	121,890	18	7	125,140	10	5½	123,975	6	6½	130,501	16	1¾	131,374	18	2½	135,947	13	0
Ditto Immigration, Mauritius and India	3,781	16	0	4,912	13	6¼	5,431	0	10	4,890	13	7¼	5,783	10	9¾	6,261	15	9¼
Total Establishments	125,672	14	7	130,053	3	11¾	129,406	7	4½	135,392	9	9	137,158	9	0¼	142,209	8	9¼
Service, exclusive of Establishments:																		
Pensions, retired Allowances and Gratuities	8,148	10	9	11,602	12	11½	9,244	7	7½	9,160	11	11½	8,411	8	10¼	9,075	14	6
Revenue Services	5,079	14	3	4,166	17	9	8,693	3	0	17,992	5	4	12,046	10	0¼	8,988	12	2
Administration of Justice	7,784	0	2	3,982	7	1	2,771	8	1	2,171	2	5	3,364	0	3	3,245	11	8
Ecclesiastical	32	16	1	640	0	0	1,465	0	0	2,255	0	0	1,567	5	5	1,061	6	4
Charitable Allowances	48	14	7¾	48	11	0	37	15	0	28	12	0	24	4	0	17	11	0
Education	2,119	14	6	2,466	6	8	2,844	6	8	1,960	8	2	1,791	18	11	2,232	8	1
Hospitals	2,192	3	10	2,759	12	4	3,060	2	4	4,079	0	2	4,128	2	10	4,138	2	1
Police and Gaols	3,257	8	2	1,934	10	9	2,347	7	10	2,264	0	0	3,779	18	11½	2,378	9	10
Rent	3,657	10	8	2,932	1	0	2,681	0	7	2,819	18	7	3,125	12	3	3,267	13	4
Transport	505	15	1	565	7	8	2,278	18	11	820	14	1	1,358	19	8	1,120	8	9
Conveyance of Mails	641	7	8	287	2	11	10,201	8	0	8,935	0	4	2,860	12	1	5,415	19	1
Works and Buildings	7,580	3	1	7,913	3	2	10,368	1	0¼	8,760	7	5	12,637	13	8	11.060	13	3
Roads, Streets, and Bridges	8,126	10	0	5,172	7	7	5,494	10	4	8,159	15	0	10,495	2	1	20 188	0	9
Miscellaneous Services	4,055	6	3	2,336	7	1	3,393	6	3½	13,529	10	1½	11,761	17	8½	13.141	16	7½
Interest	2,013	3	2	4,380	12	9½	2,548	15	6½	2,802	2	7½	3,221	2	1½	3 555	8	9
Civil Store Department	5,649	3	8	5,956	19	11	7,020	16	7	8,488	5	5	9,701	2	6	7,560	7	11
Contribution towards Military Expenditure	5,000	0	0	5,000	0	0	5,000	0	0	5,000	0	0	5,000	0	0	5,000	0	0
Colonial Pay and Allowances	14,657	8	0	12,233	5	6	13,983	8	7	15,165	19	5	14,817	9	0	12,938	10	1
Immigration	38,733	8	1	77,099	0	2	60,364	11	5½	120,414	19	4⅜	66,225	13	10½	66,075	15	7¼
Drawback and Refund of Duties	1,887	4	7	1,522	10	0	1,999	7	0¼	2,170	4	0	4,362	2	6	3,908	13	0
Grand Total £	246,932	17	2¾	283,053	0	3¾	285,204	2	3¾	372,370	6	2¼	317,839	5	8¾	326,580	12	1

(Signed) W. W. R. Kerr, Auditor General.

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Sub-Enclosure 2 in No. 23.

REPORT on the ROYAL COLLEGE for 1856.

1. Having, in former reports entered into details of the system of instruction pursued at the Royal College, I shall in the present confine myself to a slight retrospect of the events of the session of 1856, adding a few remarks on what appear to me to be the most striking imperfections in the present system, together with such remedies and modifications as my experience may enable me to suggest.

2. In March, the college sustained a loss by the death of Mr. Bojer. On the high attainments of that professor it is unnecessary for me to dwell. His fame as a naturalist was not confined to Mauritius, but extended to all the learned societies of Europe. In his capacity of professor of natural history and chemistry at the college, I had ample opportunities to judge of the zeal and talent he brought to the discharge of his duty, and am certain that had he been spared he would have carried out to the fullest extent the views entertained by Government in the formation of those classes.

3. I have also to record the death of Mr. Chauvineau, teacher of drawing, a man universally esteemed, beloved and respected by his pupils, a most skilful teacher, devoted to his art, and so interested in the progress of his pupils that he never limited his instruction to the hours assigned to him at the college, but disinterestedly received in his private studio and assisted every pupil who evinced a taste for the art. His loss, I need hardly remark, will be much felt.

4. I believe I am warranted in stating that the public examinations at the close of the session proved satisfactory, and that considerable progress was marked generally throughout the classes. I might even mention in support of this assertion, that in some instances both the written compositions and the answering of the pupils, especially in the higher classes, elicited expressions of approbation from those gentlemen who kindly favoured us with their assistance on the occasion. His Excellency the Governor, actuated by the interest he has never ceased to feel in the welfare of the institution, was kind enough to take a part in the proceedings, and expressed his satisfaction at the manner in which, generally speaking, the pupils of the first class recited English. He even remarked that he considered the distinction hitherto made between boys of French and English extraction to be no longer necessary, the pronunciation of the former being, if not superior, at least fully equal to that of the latter. A testimony of this nature from so high and disinterested a quarter is not only valuable in itself, but will doubtless prove a great stimulus to further exertions on the part of both pupils and professors.

5. The distribution of prizes took place on Thursday 18th December, when his Excellency the Governor presided. I regret to be obliged to state that the behaviour of the pupils on this occasion was not so orderly as usual, the proceedings being frequently interrupted by excessive applause or marks of approbation. Such disorderly conduct would seem to warrant the inference that discipline was much relaxed during the session. This, however, was not the case. On the contrary, it was as well maintained as in any former session for several years; not a single serious case of breach of discipline or of immorality having occurred throughout the year. I can only ascribe this exceptional case of agitation to the jealous feelings which unfortunately at the time existed (and I fear still exist) between different sections of the population, and which found vent among the junior members of the community by mutual recriminations and noise in a crowded and mixed assembly, where perhaps any forcible attempts to restore at once perfect order would only have been productive of greater confusion. It is but right to add, to prevent any exaggerated ideas on the subject, that nothing but noise was to be complained of.

6. The silver medal for junior classes of English was awarded to Evenor Chastellier.

7. The gold medal for senior classes of English was gained by Raphael Bonnemaison.

8. The prize of superiority was adjudged to Etienne Pellereau.

9. The four best pupils of the year presented to his Excellency the Governor were, Etienne Pellereau, Noëmus Lacomfourque, George Cox, and Jules Labonté, from whom his Excellency selected Etienne Pëllereau and Noëmus Lacomfourque as the pupils who had gained the privilege of being sent to England for the purpose of prosecuting their professional education at the expense of Government.

10. The following appear to me to be the most striking imperfections in the present system of instruction at the college:—

1. Too many classes in most of the branches.
2. Too many prizes.
3. Compositions for crosses and medals too frequent during the year.
4. Higher pupils attend too many different classes each day.
5. Interruption of studies towards the end of the year by compositions for prizes.
6. Discipline weakened by irregular and unpunctual attendance of some professors.

1. With regard to the number of classes; from a summary I have made I find that there were in 1856, in French seven junior and seven senior classes. These might be reduced to five junior and five senior. In Latin there were three junior and six senior. These I propose to reduce to three junior and four senior, and in like manner in some other branches.

2. The prizes given at the last distribution amounted to 212. This number may be reduced by one half at least.

3. I propose that in future there shall be only three distributions of crosses and medals during the year instead of five. (I find that the holding of compositions so often as five times a year is not only unnecessary, but interferes materially with the progress of the pupils.) These three distributions may be held in May, August, and 1st November. After the last-mentioned date, pupils could be employed in preparing for their vivâ voce examinations; and as there would be no more compositions their regular duties would not, as by the present system, be interfered with.

4. In regarding, as I do, the senior department of the college in the light of a high school (not a university), I am of opinion that the classes indispensable for the higher boys are those of classics and mathematics, French and English literature. Of these mathematics, classics, and English to be attended every day, and French three times a week. As to the extra classes, of natural philosophy, chemistry, and logic, it may be made optional for each boy to attend one of these, according to the profession he is destined for. Thus a boy would not have to attend more than four classes each day.

5. With regard to the interruption to regular duty by the compositions for prizes at the end of the year, I can safely assert that at least a fortnight's time is lost, not of course to diligent and ambitious boys, but to the majority, who take advantage of the cessation of regular studies to addict themselves to either idleness or disorderly conduct. The prizes of excellence being identified (as I propose) with those of composition will effectually stop this evil, without doing the slightest injustice to the deserving pupils of the class.

6. I have had to complain frequently during last session of the irregularity and want of punctuality in the attendance of some professors. This is a serious evil, as, notwithstanding all the moral influence that may be used, it is impossible to preserve perfect discipline when so many boys of different classes are crowded together, waiting the arrival of their several professors. I trust, however, that a moral sense of obligation alone will suffice to induce greater regularity on the part of these gentlemen. If not, some stringent measures must be adopted to enforce it.

(Signed) JOSEPH DEAS, M.A.,
Royal College, Mauritius, 4th May 1857. Ex. Sch. T.C.D., Rector.

Annexed is a statement showing the amount of income and expenditure, number of pupils, &c., of the Royal College, during the year 1856.

STATEMENT showing the Amount of Income and Expenditure of the Royal College during the year 1856.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Income :—						
The school fees amounted to				2,026	12	4
Expenditure :—						
The aggregate salaries of the establishment were	3,846	5	6			
Office contingencies	24	2	8			
				3,870	8	2
Services, exclusive of establishment :—						
In England	1,212	18	4			
In Mauritius	947	3	6			
				2,160	1	10

No. of pupils on the books compared with two preceding years.

1854.	1855.	1856.
No. 294.	261	266

(Signed) J. DEAS, Rector.

Sub-Enclosure 3 in No. 23.

REPORT on GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS in MAURITIUS for 1856.

1. For the first six months of the past year the continued prevalence of epidemics militated seriously against the prosperity of the schools.

2. It was deemed advisable that all school business should be suspended on the 24th of March, when the cholera was at or near its height.

3. The vacation thus commenced varied from one month to eight or ten weeks, according to the progress of the disease in the immediate vicinity of each school.

4. When the schools re-opened, after a recess, the children came back very gradually, whilst many who survived the epidemic, did not return at all.

5. The blanks thus caused were, in some instances, never filled again, in others; the numbers of the previous year were well sustained, or even added to.

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6. There can be no doubt to the mind of any one who has carefully watched the schools, that very fair progress has been made by the majority of the children who have been regular in their attendance, whilst the frequent irregularity, in too many instances, puts progress out of the question.

Changes and Improvements.

7. In order to secure every possible advantage to the school children, the following changes and improvements have been made :—

I. The services of Mr. Weston (1st class queen's scholar 1853, and certificated master 1854,) were engaged on the 1st of July, the intention being that he should take charge of the proposed new normal school ; but, pending the opening of this, he was commissioned to organize all the existing schools according to a plan submitted by him, and to assist the teaching staff in carrying out the provisions of this plan in the readiest and most effective manner.

Great benefits may be expected to result from the introduction of a uniform system of instruction, and a uniform method of imparting it. Thus, for instance,—

1. The parties engaged in teaching will be restrained from following any plans of their own which are not directly beneficial to the children.

2. Any teachers who, though in other respects well qualified for their duties, may be wanting in method, will have their energies rightly directed.

3. The comparative progress arrived at in the different schools will be more easily estimated when looked at with regard to fixed rules by which all are equally regulated, and the existence of this common test for all is not unlikely to stimulate to efforts to excel, both on the part of the teachers and the more advanced amongst their pupils.

II. Additional assistants have been placed in some of the schools which are largely attended, and to ensure persons of superior attainments to fill these posts an increased scale of payments has been adopted.

III. The teaching of vocal music has been extended from three to five schools in Port Louis.

IV. The geometry class, hitherto held for one hour per week in each of the five schools in town, is now held in the professor's lecture room, where those pupils who are qualified, attend from the town schools in two classes for three hours each per week.

V. Commodious schoolrooms have been provided at Rochebois and Souillac. The school at Pointe Aux Piments has been removed to the more populous neighbourhood of Arsenal.

VI. In consequence of the death of one master, the removal of two others from the school department, and the retirement of one mistress, the following appointments and changes have taken place :—

1. Mr. Leal, master at Flacq, to be master of Western Suburb school, in place of Mr. Joly, deceased.

2. Mr. F. de la Châtre Ogle, to be master at Flacq, in place of Mr. Leal.

3. Mr. Gordon, to be master of Western Juvenile school, in place of Mr. Graves, transferred to the prisons department.

4. Mr. Brown, at Souillac, to be master at Rochebois, in place of Mr. Standley, removed to Royal College department.

5. Mr. C. Bell, to be master at Souillac, in place of Mr. Brown.

6. Miss Cablé, to be mistress of Grand River school, in place of Mrs. Roussel, retired.

8. The experiment of schools for Indian children has been tried in Port Louis. One for children from Madras, in the Tamul language ; the other, for Calcutta children, in the Hindoo dialect; both conducted by natives of India.

9. The average daily attendance at the Tamul school reached in one month to as high a number as forty-five, but fluctuated considerably between that number and twenty-five during the six months of 1856, for which the school was open. The proportion of girls to boys has been nearly one to three.

10. At the Hindoo school the averages have been in two or three months somewhat higher than in the Tamul school ; the fluctuations as great ; the attendance of girls limited to three or four.

11. The difficulty of collecting and bringing these children to school must not be lost sight of. The masters find it necessary to perform this duty very frequently themselves, in order to fill their school benches. It would leave the masters more at liberty for the work of teaching if a permanent assistant were appointed to each school, irrespective of the number of scholars, in order that by his means greater regularity might be ensured.

12. The numbers in attendance might, too, be considerably increased if to the Tamul school there were appointed an under master to teach one of the Calcutta dialects, and to the Hindoo school one to teach Tamul.

13. The schools at present established are situated, one in the eastern suburb, and one in the western suburb, so that the Tamul children, whose parents live in the eastern suburb, would have to send their children to the other end of the town, if they wished to avail themselves of the Government schools ; and, on the other hand, Calcutta children

from the western suburb, would have to cross to the eastern. By the proposed arrangement this difficulty would be avoided.

14. Viewed in comparison with existing schools in the colony, and considering how short a time these schools have been in operation, they afford very fair promise of ultimate success.

Infant Schools.

15. One thing is very much to be desired in order to render the schools more effective; it is, that a trained infant schoolmistress be attached to each of the large schools, to take charge of all children of both sexes under seven years old, in a separate apartment fitted up for this express purpose.

16. The number of children attending the five schools in Port Louis was, at the close of the year, 502 boys and 184 girls; total 626. Of these 686 children at least 228, or one third, are children about or under 7 years of age, or, if not infants in age, are infants in knowledge, and would be benefited by being treated as such.

17. Under existing arrangements the female infants attend with their elder school fellows, and the male infants in the same may, except in one instance, viz., that of the schools in Royal Street.

18. The consequence of this is, that the children do not have that undivided attention which they require, except as distributed through the aid of monitors who are themselves but children; and in the exception mentioned above the assistant teacher in charge of the male infant department, though a zealous man, and a very fair schoolmaster, would be better adapted to take charge of a school of children of all ages than of one composed exclusively as the department is of which he has now the management, especially when it is taken into consideration that a large number are always in attendance here, the proportion of those classed as infants to others in this school being nearly three to two. I consider the teacher referred to to be as good a one as could be found in the colony, and worthy of every praise for the way in which he performs his assiduous duties; but the truth is, that the care of infants is so important and difficult a task that persons are seldom able to discharge it with good results unless they have made that particular branch of teaching their peculiar study. The system in use in England is to combine amusement with instruction, and to permit of occasional relaxation, according to the age or strength of the children. This is obviously more necessary in the treatment of children in a tropical climate than at home; but, in order to secure these advantages, a separate room and yard or portion of a yard is necessary, with all the required appliances, as well as a mistress whose attention has been particularly devoted to the care of young children.

19. When the children here are, on account of their age, put into one of the upper classes, it very frequently happens that they are complete dunces, and have to begin at the very beginning. It is found that in the junior classes they have learnt little or nothing. If the plan proposed were adopted, it would not only render the schools attractive to young children, but highly beneficial in various ways. By placing a young girl or pupil teacher under each infant schoolmistress, it would soon be needless to look to the mother country for the supply of female teachers, who are so much required and more difficult to be met with than even masters and male assistants.

20. The masters having to teach every thing in French and English, and allowing for the time taken up by the geometry and singing classes, have enough to do, with all the goodwill and ability which they bring to bear on their work, to keep their upper classes in an efficient state.

(Signed) W. Lewis Mason,
Schools' Office, 30th April 1857. Acting Superintendent of Government Schools.

Sub-Enclosure 4 in No. 23.

Memorandum respecting the Elementary Schools in connection with the Church of England.

Port Louis, May 21, 1857.

1. It is somewhat difficult to make out a statement respecting the above schools, from the complication of the management of the funds by which they have been supported; but I shall endeavour to make the account clear, by dividing them into two classes, those independent of the Rev. de Joux's management, and those which are under his charge.

Port Louis. English and French.

Two schools, one for boys, with between 30 and 40 pupils; girls between 20 and 30.

Indian.

One Bengalee mixed, 14 pupils.

2. It is an interesting fact, though not strictly connected with elementary schools, that a Sunday school, held in the room near the cathedral, has more than a hundred and twenty pupils under the care of voluntary teachers.

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Grand River.

3. In the Indian camp, a school for Bengalee children, with 31 pupils, of whom 29 were present the last time I heard of it. This is a rare proportion of attendants.

Plaines Wilhems.

4. Four small schools have been attempted here, only two of which can be regarded as steady. More than 80 children have been gathered; but absurd reports of our intentions respecting the children, such as that the Government intended to send them away to make sepoys of them, &c., have had a strong effect, not only on Indians, but also on creole parents. Between 30 and 40 children only at present can be reckoned on, though the reports of the catechists tell of several hundreds of Indian children in different parts of that district bordering on the high road and towards Moka.

Mahebourg.

5. A small Tamil school with 13 pupils.

6. The schools under Mr. de Joux are in three groups:—1 at Petite Rivière and Bamboie there are six schools kept in two establishments. In each of these establishments, English, French, Bengalee, and Tamul are taught. The creole, the Bengalee, and the Madrassee schools are quite distinct in management, though in the same compound. In the Petite Rivière schools, 83 pupils were present on one of the days when I visited it, out of 125 on the books, and at Bamboie there were 63 out of 100. I regard these two schools with great interest, as they show how the Indians are attracted by their own language. Creole boys may learn the Indian languages, so as to become interpreters by-and-by; while Indian boys and girls, who look like the children in ragged schools at home, are more likely to combine with the other more civilized elements of the labouring population by daily meeting in the same compound than by any other way.

7. The next group is at Black River. Four schools; three of them very small, and one shut up when I was there from the illness of the master.

(1.) Across the bay from the military post "La Laline" - -	18	All creoles.
(2.) Couteau Raffin - - - - - - - - -	18	„
(3.) Chamarel - - - - - - - - -	17	„

(4.) The Morne are excellent rooms. The fluctuations have been between 69 and 30.

8. The other group has Vacaas for its centre—

Central school, boys 48; girls 52.

Trou-aux-Cerfs - - - - - - - - -	20	All creole.
Chemin Vert (infants) - - - - - - - -	20	„
Nearer the Tamarind Falls - - - - - - -	35	„
Curepipe - - - - - - - - - -	83	„

Indian.

9. A Bengalee school, between 30 and 40. A Tamul ditto. I have not the number at hand, but I believe it is nearly the same. Frequent personal inspection of the schools and localities has led me to the following conclusions:—

1. Numerous small schools are necessary for some time to come.

2. There is no reason, from any special circumstances which might be supposed to affect the Indian coolies, to look for more success here than has been met with in other places, by attempting to teach the young Indian children in a language which they do not understand.

3. The parents, if left to themselves, are by no means indisposed to let their children be educated.

4. It is almost impossible to secure regular attendance.

5. The most satisfactory arrangement in my judgment is that by which Indian schools are grafted on those established for the creoles, the Indian teachers being generally under the creole master; as head master of the establishment.

(Signed) VINCENT W. MAURITIUS.

Sub-Enclosure 5 in No. 23.

To his Excellency Sir J. M. HIGGINSON, K.C.B., Governor and Commander-in-chief of Mauritius and Dependencies, &c. &c. &c.

SIR,

1. In compliance with the ordinance regulating the prisons of Mauritius, the Port Louis prison committee have the honour to lay before your Excellency this report* on the establishment which has been placed under our superintendence.

2. The delay which has occurred in its presentation has been beyond our control, and due to a succession of hindrances against which it has been impossible to provide; but the

* The enclosures to this report, being very voluminous, are not printed.

chief cause of its having been retarded until now is the desire we have had to forward it in as complete a shape as possible; thence arose the necessity of preparing statistical data, embracing many years, and the labour of compiling this information has naturally occupied more time than it would have been requisite to employ had we absolutely confined our review to the year for which this report is specially intended.

3. In order to establish points of comparison in the past, and to show how the particulars concerning 1856 relatively stand, we have carried our retrospect to the beginning of the year 1851, purposing thereby, not only to enable your Excellency better to appreciate those particulars, but also to connect this report with that which was submitted to your Excellency shortly after you assumed charge of the government of this colony.

4. That one of the first objects to which your Excellency's attention was devoted on your arrival at Mauritius was the state of the prisons of the island is evidenced by a memorandum which you were pleased to address on the 30th of January 1851 to the committee to whose management the Port Louis prison was then intrusted. This communication had been preceded by a personal inspection of the prison, in the course of which your Excellency had minutely inquired into and endeavoured fully to acquaint yourself with all the details connected with its direction and discipline.

5. Your Excellency's memorandum having pointed out to the committee several points in which the management and system of discipline followed had seemed to you objectionable, in an elaborate reply the causes to which those defects were ascribable were carefully explained by the committee.

6. Ever since it has been the constant aim of all the committees which have succeeded one another at the head of this establishment, no less to counteract and eradicate where possible those mischievous causes, than to improve and extend all existing means and measures of a beneficial tendency, and to introduce new ones whenever they seemed to hold out the probability of any advantage.

7. And now, whatever may still be the requirements of the Port Louis prison, and however wide a field of improvement there may still remain before it, we think that the results obtained by it, and the condition to which it has been brought, may be looked upon as satisfactory in several important respects, considering the numerous difficulties which have had to be contended against, and the many unavoidable disadvantages under which the establishment has had to labour.

8. The changes which occurred in the population of the Port Louis prison in the course of the year 1856 are set forth in detail in the statement marked (A.) which we hereunto annex.

9. It thence appears that there was a much smaller number of prisoners remaining at the close of the year 1856 than at the end of 1855. A comparison with the previous years furthermore shows, that on the 31st December of every preceding year since 1851 there was a larger number of prisoners remaining on the prison lists.

Remained on 31st December—

1851	-	709	1854	-	514
1852	-	453	1855	-	597
1853	-	638	1856	-	412

10. The very great difference between the number remaining in 1856 and that in 1851 is however attributable to a cause which we think it proper to advert to at once; for unless it be borne in mind, neither the foregoing comparative statement, nor those which will follow in the course of this report, will appear in their true light.

11. When your Excellency first inspected the Port Louis prison (on the 25th January 1851), the inadequacy of its space for the number of its inmates attracted your attention; no less than 751 prisoners were then on the lists, a number which the establishment was quite unfit to contain.

12. This overcrowding of the Port Louis prison was the consequence of there being no prisons in the country districts wherein the prisoners convicted by the local courts, and sentenced to long periods of imprisonment, could safely be confined.*

13. Port Louis was therefore the common receptacle of all the prisoners convicted in the country districts for whom consistent accommodation could not be locally provided.

14. Measures were immediately originated for the establishment of local prisons in the country districts, and, notwithstanding the delays inseparably incident to so extensive an undertaking, at the expiration of 1852 most of the new district prisons were in a sufficiently forward state to be used, and the Port Louis prison, then relieved from the exuberance of its population, became, what it has since remained, a place of confinement and house of correction for all prisoners convicted in the district of Port Louis alone.†

15. Whether any inference as to the increase or diminution of crime in Port Louis may rightly be drawn simply from the comparative statement above given of the number of

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* Only one rural district has to be excepted from this remark: Pamplemousses, the only district which had an establishment worthy of being called a prison.

† It has to be remarked, however, that the prisoners convicted in Port Louis are not solely those against whom charges arise in this district; many offenders are sent from the country districts to be tried at the criminal sessions of the supreme court; these, after conviction, undergo their sentences in the Port Louis prison.

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prisoners remaining on a corresponding day of each year during a period of several years, that statement is fully supported by the following:—

Daily average number of prisoners of each year during the quinquennial period ending in 1856:

1852	-	574	1855	-	555
1853	-	502	1856	-	490
1854	-	494			

Which figures likewise tend to show a diminution in the amount of crime, particularly when it is considered that the population of Port Louis and that of the country districts, whence all offences which are beyond the pale of the district magistrates' powers are sent to Port Louis to be tried, have alike followed an increasing ratio.

16. Yet the total number of committals in 1856 was higher than in any previous year of the period above considered:—

		Total No. of committals.			
1852	-	5679	1855	-	6619
1853	-	5852	1856	-	6710
1854	-	4286			

17. But the daily average number of prisoners having nevertheless decreased, this table of committals shows that the discharges in 1855 and 1856 were more than proportionably numerous, which indicates that the sentences under which the committals took place were mostly of short durations, and consequent on minor offences, thereby still supporting the conclusion that the amount of crime diminished.

18. In Appendix marked B. are given the committals of each year in detail, from 1852 to 1856 inclusive. This return shows a remarkable decrease in the committals for murder, 1852 and 1853 giving an aggregate amount of 79, and 1855 and 1856, together, no more than 27. An equally remarkable diminution is presented in the crime of poisoning, 1852 and 1853 giving an aggregate number of 6 cases, and 1855 and 1856 only 2 cases. The crime of arson shows a like abatement; 40 cases in 1852 and 1853, and 14 only in 1855 and 1856. Blows and wounds amounting to misdemeanors or crimes, and distinguished from blows and assaults only punished as police contraventions, also present a notable decline, from 71 cases in 1852 and 1853 to 35 in 1855 and 1856. The same remark applies to larceny with breaking, and larceny under other aggravating circumstances, which offences have decreased from 50 cases in 1852 and 1853 to 15 in 1855 and 1856.

19. On the other hand, manslaughter has increased from 4 cases in 1852 and 1853 to 25 in 1855 and 1856. This numerical augmentation, however, may be regarded as more than counterbalanced by the opposite result with regard to murder, particularly as this latter offence implies a far greater degree of criminality.

20. Rape, indecent assaults, perjury, and bribery have also augmented; and so have slander and defamation, assaults only amounting to police contraventions, larceny unattended with aggravating circumstances, and police contraventions.

21. Unnatural crime, coining, forgery, abduction of minors, and offences against the Merchant Shipping Act remained stationary.

22. Infractions of the municipal regulations only amounted to 1705 in 1855 and 1856; whereas they had reached the number of 2550 in 1852 and 1853. Vagrancy and desertion from masters, on the other hand, show a total number of 8884 committals in 1855 and 1856, against 6685 in 1852 and 1853. This difference, perhaps, is imputable rather to the increase of the Indian population, on the one hand, and, on the other, to the considerable augmentation which the police establishment underwent in 1855 and 1856, and the consequent enhancement of the means of detecting vagrants and deserters, than to an augmentation in the offences of vagrancy and desertion. However this be, it is obvious that on the whole the offences for which committals have numerically advanced in the two last years of the period here reviewed imply a less degree of criminality than those which have given lieu to smaller numbers of committals.* This conclusion is still further supported by the details of Appendix marked C., which shows the number of prisoners remaining on the 31st December of each year from 1851 to 1856 inclusive, distinguishing the sentences which they were undergoing.

23. A favorable feature in this statement is the considerable reduction which it shows in the numbers of untried prisoners since 1851. This beneficial result is to be attributed to the creation of the district court in which offenders arrested are immediately brought to trial.

24. The subsequent return D. shows the number of prisoners sentenced to death in each year since 1851, distinguishing those whose sentences were executed from those who were imprisoned under commuted penalties.

25. In reference to the conduct of the prisoners of the establishment under our charge, we beg to refer your Excellency to Appendix marked E., which shows the number of prison offences punished in each year from 1851 to 1856 inclusive, and the relation in

* The enhancement of the number of petty officers punished may in a great measure be attributed to their being more easily denounced and brought to trial than they formerly used to be; this benefit is due to the opening of the district courts.

which each number of punishments stands, with regard to the daily average of the prison population.

26. Measured by this test, the behaviour of the prisoners deserves a favourable report, although it has to be remarked that the comparative lowness of the relative per-centage of offenders punished in 1856 is partly to be attributed to there having been a larger number of the prisoners employed at public works in the country districts than in previous years.

27. In a report presented to the Secretary for the Home Department by the directors of convict prisons in England, we find that, with a daily average of 508 prisoners, no less than 560 punishments were awarded in Pentonville prison in the course of 1855; whereas only 19 punishments were awarded in the Port Louis prison last year, with a daily average of 307 prisoners in prison.

28. In Portland prison, during the year 1855, no less than 417 offenders were punished, with a daily average number of 1482 prisoners.

29. A comparison between these returns and our Appendix marked F. undeniably speaks in favor of the Port Louis prison, as far as regards the subordination and demeanor of its inmates.

30. Appendix F. sets forth the details of the prison offences and the prison punishments of 1856. In this return it is worthy of remark, that although Indian prisoners generally form more than two thirds of the prison population, only 5 offences out of 19 committed were Indians. Whereas Europeans, who generally form but a very small section of the prisoners, and scarcely ever amount to one tenth of the total number, were guilty of 8 offences out of the 19; a result clearly proving the more tractable nature of the Indian prisoner under the discipline of the prison.

31. The sanitary condition of the establishment, and the effects of the discipline on the health of the prisoners, are favorably reported on by the medical officer of the prison (Appendix G.)

32. The daily average number of sick throughout the year amounted to nine*, and the per-centage of the sick, relative to the total number of prisoners in Port Louis, to 2.93. The total mortality, inclusive of the deaths from the two epidemic diseases which visited the island during the year, did not exceed 32. The annual per-centage of deaths, relative to the total of the prison population, since 1851, is shown in (Appendix H.)

33. Two cases of mental derangement occurred during the year; but neither of them was imputed to the discipline of the prison or any other cause connected with or inherent in the establishment. Both of the patients, on examination by the district commissioners of lunacy, were considered to have been labouring under intellectual weakness before they entered prison, and to have been, moreover, predisposed to insanity by their previous habits.

34. Two prisoners were pardoned by your Excellency on medical grounds. Appendix I. gives the particulars relative to their cases.

35. Appendix J. sets forth the details connected with the deaths which occurred during the year.

36. The arrangements for the treatment of sick prisoners were considered by your Excellency to be objectionable, when you inspected the establishment in January 1851. The sick were then all sent to the civil hospital. A dispensary was opened in the prison shortly afterwards, and all slight cases of illness have since been treated without the removal of the patients. It would doubtless have been still preferable to have all the sick treated within the precincts of the prison; but the inadequacy of the buildings, and the insufficiency of the space they afford, have precluded the adoption of the measures that would have been necessary for that purpose.

37. After having alluded to the health of the prisoners, we cannot refrain from noticing the serious loss sustained by the prison through the death of Dr. Rogers. This establishment had profited by his valuable services for a period of twenty-four years, during which the utmost attention was bestowed by him in the discharge of his duties.

38. It was not solely in the ministration of his care to the sick that the skill and experience of Dr. Rogers were beneficial to this establishment; in the management of the prison your committee were often materially assisted by his sound judgment and solid advice. His death created a general feeling of regret, in which your committee sincerely concurred; and we are convinced that not less deeply within the prison than without that feeling was awakened by the remembrance of Dr. Rogers' mildness, urbanity, and invariable kindness of disposition.

39. The zeal and attention hitherto displayed by his successor lead us to believe that Dr Rogers has been worthily replaced.

40. The buildings of the prison underwent no material changes during the year 1856. Their defects have therefore remained unremedied. We here allude to the imperfection and deficiencies that have arisen from the establishment having been constructed by distinct portions, at different periods, and not simultaneously on a comprehensive plan, calculated to meet the daily increasing wants of Port Louis, and devised so as to adapt itself to a predetermined system of discipline. Conceiving that the system now followed is susceptible of reform, and that the subject requires to be discussed and matured before

* The sick here alluded to are the hospital sick. The casual ailments treated within the prison are not included in this average number.

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any opinion be given as to the nature of the reform needed, we do not here attempt to suggest any great amendments in the buildings.

41. In some minor details they were advantageously altered; the walls separating the work yards were reduced in height, which, without diminishing the security of the prison, or sacrificing any other advantage, has greatly improved the ventilation. The basins and cisterns were thoroughly repaired, and some covered over, with a view to preserve them from the action of the sun, and from the dust to which they had been exposed. This change has also proved beneficial.

42. The roofs were repaired; so were many of the pipes leading the water to the upper cells; and many parts of the yards were paved, so as to exclude damp and facilitate drainage.

43. All these improvements were executed by the prisoners themselves, under the supervision of the prison officers. While referring to the buildings, we deem it necessary to revert to a subject which we have already had occasion to bring under your Excellency's notice; that is, the want of a shed in the yard in which the criminals and misdemeanants are employed at stone breaking.

44. Whatever be the system of discipline followed in future, and the consequent employment of the prisoners, we do not think that stone-breaking will ever be relinquished as a mode of occupying at least a portion of the prisoners. The erection of a shed to preserve them from all inclemencies of weather seems to us to be indispensable. The necessity of incurring the expense has been alluded to and fully explained in the minutes of our proceedings dated 16th January and 5th February last.

45. Under the ordinance passed by your Excellency in Council shortly after your arrival in this colony (ordinance No. 27 of 1851), the Port Louis prison was divided into seven distinct wards for the seven under-mentioned classes of prisoners:—

1. Untried prisoners.
2. Prisoners convicted by district magistrates of minor offences.
3. Prisoners convicted by stipendiary magistrates.
4. Misdemeanants.
5. Criminals.
6. Debtors.
7. Females.

46. In practice it has not been found possible to maintain strict lines of demarcation between these seven classes of prisoners. The buildings being unappropriated to such distinction was a first obstacle; another impediment was, the difficulty found in the regulation and appointment of work, and in the exercise of proper supervision with the limited number of prison officers on the establishment.

47. The first and two last classes, namely, the untried prisoners, debtors, and females, have, however, been kept quite apart from one another and from the other classes.

48. The vagrants also as far as possible, that is to say, when their number did not extend beyond the capabilities of their ward, were also held separate; but not unfrequently it was found necessary to lodge some of them amongst the misdemeanants.

49. The prisoners convicted of minor offences by district magistrates and the misdemeanants have in fact formed but one class. The law having traced no line distinguishing minor offences from misdemeanors, the amalgamation could indeed scarcely be avoided.

50. These last-mentioned prisoners, however, have been distinguished from the criminals in one essential respect; whereas the latter have been kept in separate confinement at night, that is, one in each sleeping cell, the former have been allowed to sleep in gangs, varying in number according to the space in each of the dormitories in which they were placed.

51. These are the classifications which have existed in the system of discipline hitherto pursued as regards the distributions of prisoners at night.

52. During the day the prisoners who remain within the prison are held in five separate classes:—

1st. The criminals and misdemeanants together *;
2dly. The vagrants;
3dly. The debtors;
4thly. The untried prisoners;
5thly. The females.

53. The apportionment of the prison labour after the necessary number of prisoners have been withdrawn for the service of the prison is as follows:

All vagrants and prisoners committed for short periods are employed in the vagrants yard at stone breaking for the municipality, under the superintendence of an overseer.

The females are kept at labour within their ward under the direction of the matron.†

And the misdemeanants and criminals work together, forming two divisions, each directed by an overseer. Several descriptions of light labour, such as net making, &c., occupy one of these divisions, and stone breaking the other. The selection of the labour

* In this class are also comprised military prisoners, and prisoners committed under the Merchant Shipping Act.

† Since the commencement of this year, measures have been taken, as your Excellency is aware, still more for the segregation of female prisoners.

for either one or the other of these gangs is not dependent on the nature of their sentences, but on the aptitude they show for the description of work which requires skill and previous practice.

54. In this essential department of penal discipline, viz., the distribution of labour to the prisoners, your committee consider that extensive reform is still required; the promiscuous employment of criminals and misdemeanants of all shades of criminality has hitherto been the inevitable consequence of the circumstances under which the prison has been placed; but your committee nevertheless think that it deserves an early examination, with a view to the adoption of means better calculated to carry out the ultimate objects of penal legislation.

55. An explanation of the principles on which the change should be devised cannot properly find room in this report; it would obviously be premature to refer to them in detail here; but a cursory glance at the subject leads us to believe that further distinctions, grounded on the nature of the sentences, a graduated system of punishments tending to reformation, the introduction of instructive labour, at least at the last stages of the punishment of criminals, the institution of a penal class for the ill-behaved, and a graduated system of rewards for the well-conducted, aggravations of discipline for the former, and relaxations of discipline for the latter, would be, amongst other measures, worthy of being examined and discussed, with the object of improving the system now in practice.

56. We are further inclined to believe that, as respects the system of discipline, some other amendments are requisite. For instance, we consider that it would be advisable to separate juvenile offenders from the others, and subject them to separate management. The present system of holding the untried prisoners in collective confinement also requires consideration, in our opinion; but these matters, as well as the improvements above proposed, would probably involve extensive alterations. They at all events require to be minutely and carefully discussed before we definitively shape them into recommendations for approval. We therefore reserve them for our future deliberation.

57. The employment of the prisoners throughout the year 1856 is represented by Appendix L. It shows that, with a total daily average of 490 prisoners, only 144 were employed in labour producing revenue, namely, 139 within the prison, and five by the municipality out of the prison. A larger number were employed by Government at public works than in previous years, 90 in Port Louis, and 183 in the country districts.

58. The actual produce of the work performed for money amounted to 533*l.* 14*s.* 6*d.*, and the estimated value of the labour supplied to Government, reckoned at the same rate, attains the sum of 1,011*l.* 17*s.* 0¾*d.*, as is shown by statement marked M.

58 a. Important public works have been executed since 1851, with the assistance of the prisoners of Port Louis. The following is a list of those which are most worthy of notice:—

Fort Adelaide completed.
Military works executed at Fort George.
Bridle path made over Pouce Mountain.
Boundary walls built for the prison at Powder Mills.
Several miles of road repaired at Pamplemousses.
Several miles of road repaired at Plaines Wilhems.
A bridge built at Reduit.
A bridge built over Cascade River.
A bridge built over Tamarind River.
Several miles of Tamarind Road repaired.
Lighthouses constructed at Flat Island and Cannoneer's Point.
Quarantine works erected at Flat Island and Cannoneer's Point.

59. Useful as these public works undoubtedly are, we cannot help referring to the means by which they have been obtained. The employment of long-sentenced prisoners out of prison, before they have passed through any probationary or preparatory stage of discipline, is, in our opinion, erroneous in principle. The question whether it is advisable or not to renounce or modify the practice having already been carefully discussed, and our decision thereupon recorded in our minutes, we beg to submit to your Excellency an extract from our register of proceedings (Appendix P.), in order to explain what our opinion upon the matter then was.

60. We have now only to add, that we still unanimously agree in thinking that, except in cases of emergency, wherein the labour of prisoners may be urgently needed, and wherein the rules of prison discipline may have unavoidably to yield to the necessities of the public service, it is advisable that long-sentenced prisoners should be kept to work within doors, in order that they should be subjected to a more stringent system of discipline on the one hand, and on the other, that they should benefit by the moralizing influences which exist within the establishment, and of which they are deprived while placed in out stations.

61. In Statement N. are shown the different works performed in consideration of payments in cash, and the actual revenue of the prison since 1851. The decrease in the receipts of 1856 is owing to there having been fewer prisoners employed at labour productive of revenue, and to the total average number of prisoners having been smaller

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than in previous years. It is also in some measure ascribable to the fact that the demands of the municipality for prisoners' labour were more restricted in 1856 than formerly.

62. Statement marked O. gives the expenditure incurred on account of the prison since 1851. The amount spent in 1856 is higher than that of any of the four preceding years; but as the disbursements are not within our control, it is not in our power to state the reasons of the augmented cost. The only item in which we are aware of having suggested an increase of outlay is that of salaries. On our recommendation, your Excellency was pleased to place at the disposal of the Lord Bishop of Mauritius an unappropriated allowance of 60*l.* for the remuneration of the clergymen and catechist of the church of England, who had until then gratuitously attended the prison.

63. The moral and religious instruction of the prisoners has been directed by the above-mentioned ministers and cathechist, and by a gentleman of the Roman catholic clergy. They attended the prison as follows :—

64. The Reverend A. Taylor (protestant) visited the prison on Tuesdays and Fridays from ½ past 4 to ½ past 5 p.m. The prisoners who attended his instructions during the year formed an average number of 40.

65. The Reverend Bichard (protestant) attended on Tuesdays between ½ past 4 and ½ past 5 p.m., and on Sundays from 2 to 3 p.m., ministering to a congregation of seamen, soldiers, and other Europeans, amounting to an average number of about 10.

66. The Indian catechist, Kooeehallee, (protestant,) attended on Sunday mornings from ½ past 7 to 9. His congregation formed an average of about 65. He besides visited the Indian prisoners in their wards and cells, and instructed them separately.

67. The Revd. I. Laval (Roman catholic) ministered to an average number of 40 attendants on Sunday morning from 4 to 5.

68. From this gentleman and from the Rev. A. Taylor, on both of whom we called for detailed reports on the results of their labours, and the means through which they realized those results, we have received the letters marked Q. and R., to which we beg leave to refer your Excellency for those particulars.

69. In the concluding paragraph of his report, the Rev. A. Taylor applies for a supply of elementary books and writing materials, and suggests that all criminals who show themselves disposed to learn be instructed in reading and writing. As the moralizing influence of secular instruction cannot be doubted, we beg to support Mr. Taylor's application, and recommend it to your Excellency's favorable consideration.

70. We have now to refer to the conduct of the prison officers during the year 1856. Except in one instance, when it became the unpleasant duty of your committee to suspend an overseer for gross misbehaviour, and to recommend his dismissal, we had every reason to be satisfied with the demeanor of the keeper and the subordinate officers of the prison. The keeper, although only lately appointed to his post, has made himself well acquainted with his various duties, and we have hitherto found him as zealous and attentive as we could desire.

71. Towards his predecessor in office, Mr. Weston, who died on the 22d April last, we deem it to be but an act of justice to say, that during the time of his service he discharged his duties to the complete satisfaction of your committee, and that to his activity and zeal were due, in a great measure, the cleanliness and order which elicited your Excellency's praise on the occasion of your visit to the prison during the last prevalence of cholera in Port Louis.

72. We have also to record the death of our respectable and worthy colleague, the Honourable Captain West. His sterling private and public qualities are too well known to your Excellency to require any eulogium from us. We have only to add, that they peculiarly befitted him for the seat which he occupied at this board, and that his death has entailed on this establishment a most serious loss.

73. The list of the events which your committee had to deplore in the course of the year 1856 is, we grieve to say, not yet closed. One more remains to be referred to. We have reserved it for an especial mention.

74. The death of the late distinguished president of the committee, the Honourable P. D'Epinay, Esquire, cannot be left unnoticed in this report. His eminent talents lent a lustre to every institution in which he had a leading part to perform, and this establishment, which had been under his direction almost ever since its creation, was greatly indebted for its development and progress to his enlightened and judicious management. His name will ever remain conspicuously connected with the history of the Port Louis prison, as it is with every public department which either had the privilege of being placed under his guidance, or the benefit of being aided by his deep learning, sound counsels, and high capacities.

75. In conclusion, we beg to express our thanks to your Excellency for the support which you have always lent to our labours, and for the interest which you have taken in every practicable measure tending either to improve the moral or physical condition of the prisoners, or to promote the efficiency of the establishment under our charge.

We have, &c.

(Signed) W. G. Dickson,
President Prison Committee, and subscribing for the Committee.

Sub-Enclosure 6 in No. 23.

STATEMENT showing approximatively the Distribution and Employment of the Male Indian Immigrants at MAURITIUS on 15th December 1856.

DISTRICTS.	Number of Men and Boys under Engagement.	Number holding Licences.	Number in possession of Carts.	Vendors of Agricultural Produce on their own account.	Vendors of Milk on their own account.	TOTAL.
Port Louis	4,955	465	259	183*	—	5,862
Pamplemousses	14,676	330	379	358	179	15,922
Rivière du Rempart	8,042	79	56	113	42	8,432
Flacq	13,938	209	150	200	—	14,497
Grand Port	9,545	172	78	39	39	9,773
Savanne	9,362	80	37	136	11	9,626
Plaines Wilhems	8,946	145	152	407	88	10,194
Moka		41	68	335	12	
Black River	3,704	61	83	233	11	4,092
	73,168	1,582	1,262	2,004	382	78,398
Add—Employed in Public Offices and Police						221
„ At Immigration Depôt awaiting Passage						300
„ In Prison, not under Engagement						30
„ "New Immigrants" whose Engagements had just expired, and "Old Immigrants" under oral Engagements (for one month) or not under any Engagement, including Carriers, Grass and Wood Cutters, Charcoal-burners, &c.						13,876
„ Children not engaged						10,000
TOTAL						102,825

* Milk-sellers included.

Colonial Secretary's Office, March 1857. Colonial Secretary.

Sub-Enclosure 7 in No. 23.

"Castor" in Simon's Bay, 14th April 1857.

His Excellency Sir JAMES M. HIGGINSON, C.B., &c. &c. &c., Mauritius.

Sir,

I have the honour to inform you, that in compliance with the desire expressed in your Excellency's letter of the 24th of November last, that during the cruize which I was then about to take to the east coast of Africa I should make inquiry as to the practicability of the Mauritius being supplied with free labour from the coast, I made special inquiry on the subject, and I regret to say that I have been led to the conclusion that there are no free labourers to be procured on any part of the coast. I visited Fazy in 2° south latitude, and, on returning south, Lamoo, Mombas, Zanzibar, Tonga (Cape Delgado), Ibo, Mozambique, and Angora; and from the information I obtained at these places I am persuaded that no natives can be brought away without first virtually purchasing their freedom. The Portuguese governors allowed this to be the case, and defended the emigration on the score of benefit to the emancipated negroes, and of the civilizing influence their improved habits would exercise upon the population of the coast after their return, and the governor-general of Mozambique persisted in repeating his conviction as to the expediency of permitting the exportation of labourers, though not denying that the result in regard to the interior of Africa would have the same evil effect as the old slave trade. The portaria peremptorily forbidding the continuance of emigration had not officially reached his Excellency from Lisbon, though he had received a private copy. The governor of Ibo had not heard of its existence until he permitted me to read to him a copy which was in my possession. They informed me that no more emigration should be permitted until the arrival of further instructions on the subject.

2. Mr. Consul Sunby stated that about a thousand free negroes might be induced to emigrate for a few years to Mauritius from Johanna and Comoro Island, but this is a number not worth taking into account, and supposing the numbers willing to emigrate were to increase, the same impediment to their introduction into Mauritius would exist which is applicable to all other Arab places, that not one woman would consent to go.

3. Bali in Boyanna Bay, on the west side of the island, is the only place in Madagascar where I touched. There I learnt that no free negroes, saccalaves or others, were to be procured on the west coast of Madagascar. The French Jesuit priests of that place informed me that the re-union government, by reason of the emigration of late years from Madagascar having caused a considerable slave trade to be carried on from the east coast of Africa, had ordered that no more immigrants should be introduced from Madagascar. If this information of the Jesuits was correct, the cessation of Madagascar immigration must have been of short duration, for the "Frolic" has just come from St. Augustine's Bay, where she found three French vessels bound to Bourbon with emigrants, having a government officer on board, who made no secret of his occupation.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) W. D. TROTTER, Commodore.

Sub-Enclosure 8 in No. 23.

DEPENDENCIES of MAURITIUS.

Denomination.	Position.	Area.	Population.	Names of Original Grantees.	Conditions upon which Grant was made.	Names of present Holders.	Terms upon which held.	Produce.
SEYCHELLES GROUP. Composed of—								
Mahé	Latitude, 4° 55′ South, Longitude, 35° 32′ East.	18 miles long, 3 to 5 do broad.	5,541	—	—	—	—	See annexed statement.
Praslin	Latitude, 4° 20′ South, Longitude, 55° 48′ East.	—	461	Courbin Amalie	—	Honble. C. A. Louys	—	
St. Anne	Latitude, 4° 35′ South, Longitude, 55° 26′ East.	—	250	Kelso, T.	—	Savy	—	
Aux Cerfs	Close to South End of St. Anne.	—	53	Calais, D.	—	Calais	—	
Isles Anonyme and "Du Sud Est."	Three small islands near the preceding.	—	5	—	—	—	—	
Longue Island, Isles Moyenne and Ronde.	Lying between St. Anne and Aux Cerfs	—	2	—	—	—	—	
Isles Thérèse	—	—	25	—	—	—	—	
Isles de la Conception des Vaches Marines, or Bird Island.	—	—	12	—	—	—	—	
	Latitude, 5° 4′ South, Longitude, 55° 8′ East.	—	Uninhabited.	—	—	—	—	
Isle aux Frégates	Latitude, 4° 32′ South, Longitude, 56° 10′ East.	2½ miles in length	60	D'Argent	—	D'Argent	—	
La Digne	—	3 miles long, ½ do. broad.	350	Nageon and Millon	—	Nageon and Millon	—	
Les Cousin and Cousine	—	—	Uninhabited.	—	—	—	—	
Les Sœurs	—	Three islands of small extent.	15	Maurel, Mrs.	—	Berlouis	—	
L'Isle Ronde and L'Isle Aride.	Near Praslin	—	Few inhabitants.	—	—	—	—	
Booby Island	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
L'Isle Felicité	—	Is of small extent	21	Fondaumière	—	J. J. Philinte	—	
Isle aux Recifs	Latitude, 4° 34′ South, Longitude, 55° 49′ East.	1¼ mile long.	—	—	—	—	—	
L'Isle Nord or Fearn Island	—	—	35	Beauford	—	Beauford	—	
Denis or Orixa	Latitude, 3° 49′ South, Longitude, 55° 44′ East.	3 miles long, 1½ do. broad.	—	Lesage, Capn.	—	—	—	
Curieuse	—	2 miles long, 1 do. broad.	42	Series	—	Government property. (Asylum for lepers).	—	
Les Mammelles	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Silhouette	Latitude, 4° 27′ South, Longitude, 55° 17′ East.	9 miles in circumference.	140	David, J. P.	—	Dauban, Nageon	—	

Denomination.	Position.	Area.	Population.	Names of Original Grantees.	Conditions upon which Grant was made.	Names of present Holders.	Terms upon which held.	Produce.
L'Isle Plate	Latitude, 5° 48′ South, Longitude, 55° 27′ East.	1 mile in length	—	Dullainé	—	—	—	
I. Isle D'Alabra	Latitude, 9° 22′ South, Longitude, 46° 50′ East.	—	15	Mainguy, S^{r}	—	Hutcan	—	
Isle aux Vaches Marines	Latitude, 3° 45′ South, Longitude, 52, 50′ East.	—	—	Robert, T.	—	T. D'Offay	—	
Amsterdam	Latitude, 37° 52′ South, Longitude, 77° 52′ East.	12 miles in circumference.	—	—	—	—	—	
St. Paul's	Latitude, 38° 41′ South, Longitude, 77° 52′ East.	10 miles long, 5 do. broad.	—	—	—	—	—	
Rodrigues	Latitude, 19° 40′ 40″ South, Longitude, 63° 11′ 30″ East.	26 miles long, 12 do. broad.	495	—	—	—	—	
Islets adjoining:								
Crabbe and Foux	—	—	—	Manason	—	Widow Sipon	—	
L'Hermitage	—	—	—	Legros	—	Legros & Co.	—	
Frégates	—	—	—	Begué, G.	—	Begué, G.	—	
Insectes	—	—	—	Chenard, Widow	—	Chenard, Widow	—	
Pierrots	—	—	—	S. Antelme & Co.	—	S. Antelme & Co.	—	
St. Brandon	Latitude, 16° 26′ South, Longitude, 59° 53′ East.	—	—	Bousseret, Raphael, Stone, and Blancord.	To import produce into Port Louis, Mauritius.	Daniel Martin & Co.	Not to transfer the island without permission of Government.	See annexed statement.
Diego Garcia	Latitude, 7° 15′ South, Longitude, 72° 32′ East.	—	299	J. B. Cayeux and Majastre	Do.	Lienard, Père et Fils, and Mazery.	Do.	
The Six Islands	Latitude, 6° 35′ South, Longitude, 71° 25′ East.	—	25	Majastre and Duperral S^{r}	Do.	A. Duperrel & Co.	Do.	
Three Brothers	Latitude, 6° 10′ South, Longitude, 71° 28′ East.	—	22	Honble. A. Maure, Mrs. Fitzpatrick.	Do.	Hon. H. Lemière and Louys & Plasson.	Do.	
Salomons islands (otherwise called 11 islands).	Latitude, 5° 23′ South, Longitude, 72° 35′ East.	—	91	Allain, Widow, and W. Stone	Do.	Gouges & Honble. Lemière	Do.	
Peros Banhos (22 in number)	Latitude, 5° 23′ 30″ South, Longitude, 72° 3′ East.	—	60	Bigot and Allain, Malefille, Majastre, Pulvenis, & Co.	Do.	Levreux, Duvergé, & Co.	Do.	
Legour Island	Latitude, 5° 39′ South, Longitude, 72° 37′ East.	2 miles long, $\frac{2}{3}$ of a mile broad.	—	Majastre & Co.	Do.	Majastre & Co.	Do.	
Isles St. George and Rocquepez. Supposed to be submerged.	Latitude, 70° 10′ South, Longitude, 63° 8′ East.	—	—	Bestel Nephew, Grupen	Do.	Bestel Nephew	Do.	
Agalega	Latitude, 10° 29′ 50″ South, Longitude, 56° 55′ East.	11 miles long, $1\frac{1}{2}$ do. broad.	213	L. Barbé	Do.	Heirs F. Barbé, Gerard & Co.	Do.	
Coelivi, St. François	Latitude, 7° 15′ South, Longitude, 56° 23′ East.	8 miles long	23	Laconfourque & Co.	Do.	Honble. Louys Plassin & Co.	Do.	
Juan de Nova	Latitude, 10° 20′ South, Longitude, 32° 17′ East.	—	14	Boudet, senior, F. Sullivan, Esq.	Do.	Lamy and Rochery, senior	Do.	
Providence	Latitude, 9° 12′ South, Longitude, 52° 17′ East.	2 miles long, 1 do. broad.	7	Margeot, Dr., R. Avice, Lahausse, C.	Do.	Do.	Do.	

PORT OF PORT LOUIS, MAURITIUS.

STATEMENT of Goods imported from the Dependencies of Mauritius in each of the last Three Years.

IMPORTS FROM AGALEGA.

ARTICLES IMPORTED.	1854. Quantity.	1854. Probable Value.	1855. Quantity.	1855. Probable Value.	1856. Quantity.	1856. Probable Value.
		£ s. d.		£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Beer	—	—	—	—	389 Hhds.	1,167 0 0
Corn, Grain, Meal, and Flour, Maize	100 Bags.	20 0 0	440 Bags.	88 0 0	832 Bags.	166 8 0
Fruits, dried, Cocoa Nuts	175 in No.	0 8 0	—	—	—	—
Oil, Cocoa Nut	76 Casks.	190 0 0	28 Casks.	70 0 0	220 Casks.	550 0 0
Tortoiseshell	—	—	—	—	2 Cases.	30 0 0
Wood, Boards and Planks	—	—	—	—	40 in No.	4 0 0
Casks, empty	—	—	—	—	126 in No.	44 2 0

IMPORTS FROM GOTIVY.

Oil, Cocoa Nut	44 Casks.	110 0 0	—	—	—	—
Poonac	22 Bags.	3 6 0	—	—	—	—
Tortoiseshell	1 Case.	15 0 0	—	—	—	—

IMPORTS FROM DIEGO GARCIA.

Animals, Asses	—	—	20 in No.	140 0 0	20 in No.	140 0 0
Cocoa Nut Fibres	—	—	—	—	20 Bags.	2 10 0
Copper Sheets and Nails	Cwt. 4. 3. 0.	14 5 0	—	—	—	—
Cordage Coir	—	—	21 Bags.	5 0 0	—	—
Corn, Grain, Meal, and Flour, Maize	88 Bags.	17 12 0	—	—	—	—
Fish, dried and salted	—	—	8 Bundles.	4 0 0	7 Barrels.	7 0 0
Fish, Turtle	6 in No.	1 10 0	—	—	—	—
Fruits, dried, Cocoa Nuts	10,000 in No. 100 Bags.	30 0 0	45,000 in No.	90 0 0	8,000 in No.	16 0 0
Oil, Cocoa Nut	1,169 Casks.	2,922 10 0	1,579 Casks.	3,947 10 0	634 Casks.	1,585 0 0
Tin Plates	—	—	—	—	9 Boxes.	9 0 0
Tortoiseshell	1 Case.	15 0 0	—	—	1 Case.	15 0 0
Wood, Boards and Planks	—	—	13 in No.	1 6 0	—	—
Timber	50 Pieces.	2 10 0	180 Pieces.	9 0 0	—	—

IMPORTS FROM EAGLE ISLAND.

Oil, Cocoa Nut	—	—	90 Casks.	225 0 0	—	—
Poonac	—	—	30 Bags.	4 10 0	—	—
Wood, Timber	—	—	300 Pieces.	15 0 0	—	—

IMPORTS FROM PEROS BANHOS.

Gorn, Grain, Meal, and Flour, Maize	39 Bags.	7 16 0	—	—	—	—
Oil, Cocoa Nut	226 Casks.	565 0 0	413 Casks.	1,032 10 0	519 Casks.	1,297 10 0
Tortoiseshell	3 Cases.	45 0 0	—	—	1 Case.	15 0 0
Wood, Boards and Planks	31 Planks.	3 2 0	—	—	—	—

IMPORTS FROM RODRIGUES.

Animals, viz. Asses	7 in No.	49 0 0	1 in No.	7 0 0	13 in No.	91 0 0
Cows and Oxen	34 in No.	170 0 0	3 in No.	15 0 0	22 in No.	110 0 0
Goats	419 in No.	209 10 0	213 in No.	106 10 0	387 in No.	193 10 0
Pigs	19 in No.	9 10 0	29 in No.	14 10 0	17 in No.	8 10 0
Sheep	12 in No.	9 12 0	—	—	—	—
Bread and Biscuit	—	—	—	—	Cwt. 10.	10 0 0
Copper Sheets and Nail	Cwt. 2. 2. 20.	7 4 0	—	—	—	—
Corn, Grain, Meal, and Flour, Beans	206 Bags.	61 16 0	123 Bags.	36 18 0	339 Bags.	101 14 0
Wheat Flour	—	—	—	—	Cwt. 8.	8 0 0
Fish, dried, and salted	3,584 Bundles. 65,000 Lbs.	2,442 0 0	4,790 Bundles.	2,395 0 0	1,842 Bundles, 2,183 Bales, and 1,148 Packages.	2,586 10 0
Fish, pickled	—	—	—	—	1 Barrel.	2 0 0
Meat, salted and cured	—	—	—	—	Cwt. 60.	70 0 0
Oil, Sperm or Fish	3 Casks.	31 10 0	—	—	—	—
Whalebone	—	—	—	—	Cwt. 64. 1. 18.	125 0 0
Wood, Spokes	—	—	250 in No.	2 1 8	—	—
Timber	500 Pieces.	25 0 0	—	—	—	—

Articles Imported.	1854.		1855.		1856.	
	Quantities.	Probable Value	Quantities.	Probable Value.	Quantities.	Probable Value.
IMPORTS FROM ST. BRANDON						
		£ s. d.		£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Fish, dried and salted	16,000 Lbs. and 22,000 in No.	204 0 0	14,000 Lbs.	140 0 0	6,000 Lbs. 191,500 in No.	443 0 0
Fish, Turtle	39 in No.	9 15 0	—	—	13 in No.	3 5 0
Wood, Spokes	—	—	1,527 in No.	12 14 6	—	—
Timbers	—	—	20 Pieces.	1 0 0	—	—
IMPORTS FROM SEYCHELLES.						
Apparel	—	—	—	—	4 Trunks.	8 0 0
Arms and Ammunitition, Lead Shot	—	—	—	—	Cwt. 16. 1. 16.	12 19 6
Bays, empty, Vacoa	63,005 in No.	945 0 0	78,103 in No.	1,171 10 0	121,972 in No.	1,830 0 0
Baskets and Basket Work	—	—	—	—	2 Cases.	4 0 0
Books, printed	—	—	—	—	Cwt. 8.	30 0 0
Brushes and Brooms	3,000 in No.	3 0 0	5,500 in No.	5 10 0	34 Bags. 1 Case.	3 18 0
Cabinet and Upholstery Ware	—	—	—	—	1 Armoire.	4 0 0
Cocoa	4 Bags.	2 0 0	—	—	—	—
Coffee	2 Bags.	4 0 0	1 Bag.	2 0 0	—	—
Confectionary (Syrup)	—	—	2 Demijohns.	1 0 0	—	—
Copper Sheets and Nails	—	—	—	—	Cwts. 17. 0. 24.	72 1 0
Corn, Grain, Meal, and Flour, Maize	58 Bags.	11 12 0	150 Bags.	30 0 0	—	—
Cotton Manufactures	—	—	60 Yards.	0 10 0	—	—
Cotton Wool	48 Bags.	24 0 0	10 Bags.	5 0 0	20 Bags.	10 0 0
Fish, dried and salted	24 Bundles, 10 Lbs., and 1 Case.	12 12 0	10 Bundles.	5 0 0	3,000 Lbs.	30 0 0
Fruits, dried, Cocoa Nuts	81,569 in No. and 2 Bags.	164 0 0	124,564 in No.	249 0 0	128,087 in No., and 26 Bags.	256 0 0
Glass Bottles	—	—	2 Doz.	0 2 0	—	—
Groceries	11 Cases.	22 0 0	—	—	4 Cases.	8 0 0
Haberdashery, Mercery, and Millinery	—	—	—	—	2 Bags.	2 10 0
Hardware and Cutlery	—	—	1 Iron Chain, Scale. and Weights.	40 0 0	116 Packages	82 18 0
Hats, Straw	22 Cases and 120 in No.	75 0 0	16 Cases.	40 0 0	81 Cases.	202 10 0
Honey	—	—	3 Cases.	1 0 0	—	—
Iron, Bar	—	—	—	—	Tons 16. 12.	129 14 0
Iron, Wrought	—	—	—	—	Cwt. 436.	313 12 0
Juice of Lemons and Limes	13 Barrels.	19 10 0	25 Barrels.	37 10 0	4 Casks.	6 12 0
Linen Manufactures, Sailcloth	—	—	—	—	170 Yards.	12 0 0
Meat, salted and cured	1 Barrel.	2 0 0	—	—	—	—
Moss, Rock	—	—	—	—	4 Bags.	2 0 0
Musical Instruments	—	—	1 Case.	8 0 0	—	—
Oil, Cocoa Nut	362 Casks.	905 0 0	370 Casks.	925 0 0	570 Casks.	1,425 0 0
Sperm or Fish	9 Casks.	94 10 0	37 Casks.	388 10 0	8 Casks.	84 0 0
Pickles and Sauces	—	—	3 Packages.	1 10 0	—	—
Poonac	—	—	10 Bags.	1 10 0	—	—
Provisions, preserved	—	—	3 Kegs.	10 0 0	1 Cask.	2 0 0
Soap	500 Bales.	80 0 0	—	—	287 Bales.	45 12 0
Specie	—	—	—	1,368 8 10	—	—
Spices, Cloves	142 Bags.	568 0 0	22 Bags.	88 0 0	18 Bags and 1 Case.	76 0 0
Stones, Marble	—	—	—	—	8 Slabs.	2 0 0
Sugar	—	—	451 Bags.	451 0 0	166 Bags.	166 0 0
Tobacco, Leaf	11 Bags, 2 Cases, and 12 Bales.	21 15 0	6 Packages.	3 0 0	24 Bags, 2 Cases, and 1 Cask.	16 0 0
Manufactured	1,545 Carrots and 1 Case.	182 2 4	230 Carrots, 2 Cases, and 1 Barrel.	34 6 0	350 Carrots, 3 Cases, 29 Bags, and 1 Cask.	95 15 4
Tortoiseshell	33 Cases and 1 Barrel.	510 0 0	31 Cases and 1 Barrel.	480 0 0	27 Cases.	405 0 0
Wax, Bees'	2 Cases.	5 0 0	3 Cases and 1 Cask.	12 10 0	—	—
Wine	—	—	1½ Doz. Bottles.	0 18 0	—	—
Wood, Boards and Planks	267 in No.	26 14 0	583 in No.	58 6 0	392 in No.	39 4 0
Naves	—	—	150 in No.	2 0 0	—	—
Oars	—	—	90 in No.	22 10 0	—	—
Spokes	23,252 in No.	193 15 4	11,890 in No.	99 1 8	3,101 in No.	25 16 10
Timber	87 Pieces.	4 7 0	104 Pieces.	5 4 0	49 Pieces.	2 9 0
Woodware	6 Bags.	2 0 0	12 Bags.	4 0 0	2 Pieces.	0 10 0
Goods not enumerated	6 Cases and 3 Barrels.	30 0 0	25 Cases.	40 0 0	36 Cases.	60 0 0

Articles Imported.	1854.		1855.		1856.	
	Quantities.	Probable Value.	Quantities.	Probable Value.	Quantities.	Probable Value.
IMPORTS FROM SIX ISLANDS.						
Wood, Boards and Planks - -	—	£ s. d. —	140 in No.	£ s. d. 14 0 0	—	£ s. d. —
IMPORTS FROM SOLOMON ISLANDS.						
Copper Sheets and Nails - -	—	—	Cwt. 3. 3. 1.	17 17 1	—	—
Corn, Grain, Meal, and Flour, Maize -	—	—	20 Bags.	4 0 0	—	—
Fruits, dried, Cocoa Nuts - -	10,000 in No. and 8 Bags.	21 0 0	—	—	—	—
Oil, Cocoa Nuts - - -	284 Casks.	710 0 0	418 Casks.	1,445 0 0	342 Casks.	855 0 0
Poonac - - - -	—	—	60 Bags.	9 0 0	100 Bags.	15 0 0
Wood, Boards and Planks - -	640 in No.	64 0 0	766 in No.	76 12 0	500 in No.	50 0 0
Firewood - - -	1 Lot and 10 Cords.	8 0 0	—	—	—	—
Shingles - - -	30,000 in No.	30 0 0	62,800 in No.	62 16 0	65,000 in No.	65 0 0
Spokes - - -	—	—	—	—	840 in No.	7 0 0
Timber - - -	1,595 Pieces.	79 15 0	1,904 Pieces.	95 4 0	1,060 Pieces.	53 0 0

SEYCHELLES.

No. 24.

No. 24.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir J. M. Higginson to the Right Honourable H. Labouchere.

(No. 161.)

Mauritius, August 20, 1857.

Sir, (Received October 23, 1857.)

Referring to paragraph 48 of my report, accompanying the Blue Book for 1856, I now beg leave to transmit herewith a copy of a report upon the condition and prospects of the Seychelles, which I have recently received from the civil commissioner of those dependencies.

2. This report will be found to confirm generally the impressions that I then ventured to express of the state of these dependencies during the past year.

3. The only points that appear to call for special observation from me are the proposed introduction of statute labour for the construction of new roads; the prospective imposition of an export tax on cocoa nut oil; and the withholding of 100*l.* annually from the civil chaplain by the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, consequent on the nomination of a protestant bishop of Mauritius.

4. In regard to the first, I have always been in favour of the measure, and I have long since recommended for Seychelles the adoption of a system of statute labour similar to that which has been found to work so satisfactorily in Ceylon, and I only awaited intimation of the consent of the inhabitants to the measure to enable me to give effect to it, and an ordinance for the purpose will now be introduced to the Legislative Council.

5. I entertain considerable doubts as to the expediency of taxing the exportation of oil, the manufacture of which should, I think, be especially promoted and fostered, as the only branch of industry likely to induce the investment of capital, or to yield returns sufficiently remunerative to prevent its withdrawal to more encouraging fields of enterprise.

6. In my opinion the imposition of a light "house and land tax" would be the more preferable mode of raising the revenue required.

7. And, lastly, I would submit the proposal of the civil commissioner for the renewal of the annual grant of 100*l.* to the indulgent consideration of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel. Under the provisions of Ordinance No. 6. of 1856 for promoting education, the Government would be enabled to contribute an equivalent amount, and so accomplish the highly important object aimed at, of extending the benefits of education to the people beyond the limits of the town of Victoria in Mahé, to which they are now necessarily restricted.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. M. HIGGINSON.

The Right Honourable H. Labouchere,
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure in No. 24.

Encl. in No. 24.

Victoria Town, Mahé, Seychelles,
July 10, 1857.

To his Excellency Sir J. M. Higginson, K.C.B., &c. &c. &c.

Sir,

I have the honour to forward to your Excellency my report upon the condition and prospects of these islands, to accompany the Blue Book.

2. In my report for 1855 I had the gratification to point out the increase in the revenue of this dependency during that and the two previous years, owing to the imposition of certain taxes; and I am happy to inform your Excellency that those laws continue to act beneficially.

3. The collections for last year exceed those for 1855 by 758*l.* 2*s.* 5*d.* I account for this chiefly from the increased duty levied on colonial spirits; for on looking to the returns for 1853 I find the duty on still licences and spirits amounts to only 676*l.* 14*s.* 6*d.*; whereas last year it came to 1576*l.* 15*s.* My reasons for comparing the duties collected on this item for last year with

SEYCHELLES.

those for 1853, in preference to 1855, is, that four thousand one hundred and forty-eight gallons of rum, manufactured in 1854, previous to Ordinance No. 26. of 1853 coming into force in this dependency, paid at the old rate of 1*s.* 6*d.* per gallon, which sum was accounted for in the receipts for that year, but the liquor was not actually consumed till the following one.

4. Cheering as this result is, I regret to find the assets do not yet cover the expenditure; but in the present deplorable state of poverty of the dependency I cannot recommend any further taxation.

5. The last census of these islands was taken in 1852, when the population was computed at 6,906, since which time I find, on reference to the register of births and deaths, that up to the 31st December last the former exceeded the latter by 196, so that it would appear the population is increasing, and already is greater than it was in time of slavery, which shows there are hands enough without immigrants; but so long as proprietors employ the ex-apprentices on the squatting system, as is the case at present, there must always be a scarcity of labour, as the wants of the black man are so few and easily obtained from the productiveness of the soil.

6. Another great impediment to agricultural industry, it appears to me, is the difficulty of transport, and it was this that led me to point out to your Excellency, in my report of last year, how desirable I considered the making of roads would be in this island. I have conversed with many of the inhabitants on this subject, and they fully coincide with me upon the great advantages to be derived by such communication, as conveyance on animals or carts would be so much cheaper than the present method of sending produce to this (the only port) by boats for exportation, which swallows up all profit which otherwise might be derived, and deters proprietors from cultivating their lands accordingly; but were a ready communication opened with this town and other parts of the island, every inducement would be held out to plant, and land would then become too valuable to give up to squatters or allowed to remain waste. In my report of the fifth August last, on the subject of road making, I proposed that 4000*l.* should be advanced from the Treasury for that purpose, to be afterwards recovered by a land tax to be confined to this island (the only one of the group where the roads would be practicable or necessary), which would soon pay off the debt, and by the increased value thus given to lands could not be objected to by the proprietors. I could have wished to have been able to recommend the imposition of this tax at once, but at present more than half the island is uncultivated, and I am at the moment advised that any further direct taxation would be the ruin of many respectable families; but statute labour would meet the consent of the whole population.

7. The chief production of these islands is cocoa nut oil, the manufacture of which is increasing rapidly, 25,994 imperial gallons having been shipped from this port last year for Mauritius, whereas only 15,000 were exported the year previous; and, taking into consideration the trees not yet come to maturity, and the numbers yet daily planted, I am of opinion that the production of cocoa nuts will be so great in a very few years as to render the exportation of oil of most considerable importance, and I would suggest that a small tax might then be levied on this article.

8. I annex a list of the other exports from these islands during last year, with their approximate value, the prices varying sometimes.

9. Little crime has taken place during the last year, and no case has occurred requiring to be brought before the assizes. The prison is now in a secure state, with well-ventilated solitary cells for carrying out discipline, which will no doubt be the means of diminishing still more the number of minor offences.

10. I regret to say I have as yet received no reply to an application forwarded from this upwards of eight months ago, praying for a grant in support of the schools here, agreeable to the provisions contained in Ordinance No. 6. of 1856; but, no doubt, press of business has been the cause of this delay. I have, nevertheless, continued to keep up the schools, and I hope there will exist no difficulty in recovering from Government the sums advanced for that purpose. The withdrawal of all assistance from the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel is a great loss, but one that might be remedied, I hope, upon representation, as I am under the impression that 100*l.* a year from the civil chaplain in this dependency, upon a bishop being nominated to the diocese of Mauritius had no reference to the salaries paid in addition to the schoolmaster and mistress here and the Bible readers at Praslin, amounting to 144*l.* a year,

from which is to be deducted the school money paid by the children, which upon a rough calculation would reduce the expense to 100*l.* a year. Could this sum be again granted, it would contribute very much to the moral advancement of this population; and, if met by a similar sum from Government, four or five more schools might be established in the more populous districts as well as on some of the other islands, which is much required, as it is only those children whose parents reside in or near the town of Victoria who can profit by the schools now existing. I need not point out to your Excellency the importance of this measure, and feel assured you will lend your best influence towards its advancement.

11. It is with infinite satisfaction I have to report that the sum of 400*l.* has been subscribed towards building a protestant church in this town, which, together with a similar sum from Government, will almost suffice for the purpose. A plan was forwarded to me by his lordship the Bishop of Mauritius, which I submitted to several practical men, for them to form an estimate of the probable expense, and they computed it at 1,000*l.* This I lost no time in communicating to the lord bishop, who has conveyed to me his approval of the same, and the sanction of the Church Association of Mauritius that the building should commence at once. I have thereupon called for public tenders, and accepted the offer sent in by two highly respectable inhabitants, Messrs. Dubois and Dennis Calais, who have agreed to carry out the plan for the sum estimated. Preparations have already commenced, though probably some weeks will elapse before the first stone is laid. It is to be finished in two years, by which time I trust a sufficient sum will have been collected to make up the existing deficiency.

12. I anticipated many advantages from the alteration in the postal arrangements between Mauritius and Aden, by affording a quick and regular communication with these islands; but the steamer has only touched here once, although it is now seven months since the new line was established. This, I need not say, has disappointed me much, as, besides the very great inconvenience to the public service arising from the present uncertain means of corresponding, people who would visit this dependency from Mauritius, and be the means of bringing money into the country, are deterred from doing so, for the same reason; and I still hope measures will be adopted to induce the steamers to touch here.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GEO. T. WADE,
Civil Commissioner.

LIST of ARTICLES (being the Growth, Produce, and Manufacture of the Seychelles and Amirantes) exported to Mauritius during the year 1856, together with their approximate Value.

No.	Quality.	Approximate Number.	Rate.	Approximate Value.
				£ s. d.
82	Cases, Straw Hats - -	8,400	2*s.* each -	840 0 0
1,607	Carrots of Tobacco - -	1,607	2*s.* each -	160 14 0
19	Bags, Cloves - - -	1,900	2*l.* per cent. -	38 0 0
433	Boards - - -	6,495 feet	10*d.* per foot -	270 12 6
3,667	Spoke Wheels - - -	3,667	1*l.* 12*s.* per cent.	51 13 5
113,972	Vacoa Bags - - - -	113,972	1*l.* 12*s.* per cent.	1,823 11 0½
2,374	Cocos de Mer - - -	2,374	2*l.* 8*s.* per cent.	56 19 6½
279	Parcels, Soap - - -	5,580	5*d.* per lb. -	116 5 0
92,220	Cocoanuts - - -	92,220	4*s.* per cent. -	184 8 10
8	Barrels, Fish Oil - - -	240 vetts	8*s.* per vett -	96 0 0
34	Bags, Cocoanuts - -	3,400	4*s.* per cent. -	6 16 0
5	Cases, Cahouane (common turtle shell).	200	3*s.* per lb. -	30 0 0
3,000 lbs.	Saltfish - - -	3,000	1*l.* per cent. -	30 0 0
4	Barrels, Lemon Juice - -	80 vetts	4*s.* per vett -	16 0 0
23,000 lbs.	Sugar - - - - -	23 000	1*l.* 4*s.* per cent.	276 0 0
120	Bags, Indian Corn - -	12,000	4*s.* per cent. -	24 0 0
20	Cases, Tortoise-shell - -	800	1*l.* per lb. -	800 0 0
	Total -	- - -	- - -	4,828 0 4

PART III.

AFRICAN SETTLEMENTS AND ST. HELENA.

PART III.—AFRICAN SETTLEMENTS AND ST. HELENA.

SIERRA LEONE.

SIERRA LEONE.

No. 25.

No. 25.

Copy of DESPATCH from Governor Hill to the Right Hon. H. Labouchere, M.P.

(No. 119.)

Government House,
Sierra Leone, June 30, 1857.
(Received August 10, 1857.)

Sir,

I have the honour to submit the following Report on the Blue Book of this colony for the year 1856.

I have, &c.
(Signed) STEPHEN J. HILL,
Governor.

The Right Hon. H. Labouchere, M.P.,
&c. &c. &c.

Taxes and Duties.

The impost placed under this general division may be subdivided into—

Taxes.

Which include a tax on houses and lands levied at a minimum rate of 5*s.* on all property under the value of 5*l.*, and 5 per cent. on the value of property exceeding 5*l.* per annum. These rates are payable once in each year.

This tax also includes an annual one of 1*l.* on each house, and 2*l.* on each carriage kept in the colony; and during the past year a money payment at a low rate was substituted for much of the labour that had previously been bestowed on the repairs of the roads.

It was not, however, considered advisable to discontinue altogether the practice of exacting labour for the purpose of keeping in repair the roads and highways of the colony from persons who, possessed of sufficient health, were not in circumstances to contribute in any other way to so desirable an object.

The following return will show the amount derived from the system of direct taxation since the year 1852, being the first in which the house and land tax was imposed.

Year.	House and Land.	Horse and Carriage.	Road.	Total.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1852	3,075 8 2	139 0 0	- - -	3,214 8 2
1853	2,438 17 6	123 0 0	- - -	2,561 17 6
1854	2,679 5 3	147 0 0	- - -	2,826 5 3
1855	2,717 6 1	125 0 0	- - -	2,842 6 1
1856	3,004 12 2	124 0 0	126 0 6	3,254 12 8
	13,915 9 2	658 0 0	126 0 6	14,699 9 8

Licences.

These are made up of a tax on spirits retailed in the colony, at the rate of 50*l.* per annum payable yearly, or 60*l.* per annum if payable half yearly, in the city of Freetown; in the villages the rate is reduced to 20*l.* per annum if paid annually, or 30*l.* per annum if paid half-yearly; and by an ordinance which passed on the 5th November 1856, quarterly licences may be obtained at the rate of 20*l.* per quarter, equal to 80*l.* per annum in Freetown; and 10*l.* per quarter, equal to 40*l.* per annum, in the rural districts. There is also a licence to ply boats and canoes at the rate of 10*s.* per annum; and an auctioneer's licence of 25*l.* per annum, with some further trifling charges for pilot and other licences.

The following statement shows the amount derived from these sources for the five years last past.

Year.	Spirit Licences.	Boats and Canoes.	Auctioneers and others.	Total.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1852	1,495 18 0	55 0 0	59 5 0	1,610 3 0
1853	1,729 7 0	119 0 0	35 5 0	1,883 12 0
1854	1,244 13 0	253 0 0	25 0 0	1,522 13 0
1855	1,531 13 4	198 0 0	77 0 0	1,806 13 4
1856	2,010 0 0	178 10 0	77 0 0	2,265 10 0

Import Duties.

These are imposed under an ordinance of the Governor and Council of the 12th February 1853, according to a tariff hereunder detailed.

		£	s.	d.
Ale and beer	per gallon	0	0	6
Ditto in bottles	per dozen	0	1	0
Bacon and hams	per cwt.	0	5	0
Beef and pork	,,	0	5	0
Bread and biscuit	,,	0	2	6
Bricks	per 1,000	0	5	0
Brandy	per gallon	0	2	0
Butter	per cwt.	0	8	0
Candles (not tallow)	,,	0	9	0
Clocks, under 20*s.* value	each	0	5	0
Clocks, above 20*s.* value	,,	0	10	0
Cheese	per cwt.	0	5	0
Cigars	per 1,000	0	8	0
Cordials	per gallon	0	2	0
Fish (dried)	per cwt.	0	1	0
,, (pickled)	per barrel	0	2	0
Herrings (smoked)	per box	0	0	3
Horses	each	1	0	0
Flour (wheat)	per barrel	0	5	0
Flour (other than wheat)	,,	0	2	0
Geneva	per gallon	0	2	0
Iron bars	per cwt.	0	1	6
,, hoops	,,	0	1	6
,, pots	,,	0	2	0
Lard	,,	0	5	0
Nails	,,	0	2	6
Pitch and tar	,,	0	1	0
Rum	per gallon	0	1	0
Sausages, tongues, and other meats, dried, salted, or cured	per cwt.	0	8	0
Soap	,,	0	2	6
Slates or tiles	per 1,000	0	6	0
Sugar, refined	per cwt.	0	10	0
,, crushed	,,	0	8	3
,, muscovado	,,	0	6	0
Tea	per lb.	0	0	3
Tobacco	,,	0	0	1½
Whiskey and other spirits	per gallon	0	2	0
Wine	,,	0	1	6
Wood, viz.:				
Masts and spars in the average diameter	per inch	0	0	2
Pitch pine	per 1,000	0	7	6
White pine	,,	0	5	0
Shooks	each	0	1	0
Shingles, Cypress	per 1,000	0	2	0
,, Boston on Tyne	,,	0	1	0
Staves and heading	,,	0	5	0

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Upon all other goods, wares, or merchandise there is levied a duty of 4*l.* upon every 100*l.* of the value.

Goods the produce of the Western Coast of Africa are exempt from the payment of any import duties.

The ordinance here referred to did not come into operation until the year 1854. The following statement of the sums realised under the head of import duties may be useful, as serving to compare the two years which preceded the introduction of the ordinance just named, when another tariff was in operation, with the three years which have succeeded, and the result shows that with a more varied distribution, by which the specific duties have been spread over a wider surface, the revenue has experienced but little change:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
1852 - - -	12,830	19	2
1853 - - -	14,720	10	10
1854 - - -	13,830	13	4
1855 - - -	11,020	10	5
1856 - - -	13,308	10	9

By an ordinance which passed the Board of the Governor and Council on the 16th January 1856 the indulgence of three months was granted for the payment of duties on goods imported when such duty should exceed the sum of 20*l.*, the same to be secured by bond; and hence there will be found under the head of "Customs" in the Blue Book a large amount as receipt from bonds which is only another name for import duties on which the payments were deferred, and they are classed as import duties in the foregoing statement.

Tonnage Dues.

These are levied under the ordinance of 1853 that imposed the import duties, and increased the rate on shipping from 9*d.* to 1*s.* 6*d.* per ton, which the legislature of the day did not think would act adversely on the trade of the colony, because it was in conformity with the rate charged in most of the colonial dependencies of the kingdom, and especially in the West India colonies, to which places it was ascertained that without any difference in the wages of seamen the rates of freight were the same as to this coast.

The policy of my government has been to attract as much as possible trade to the shores of this colony, without impairing its revenue, and hence the ordinance of the 1st of September 1856, to "Amend the laws with regard to "the collection of tonnage and other dues on ships and vessels," by which ships are permitted to remain four days in the harbour of Freetown without incurring any expense for tonnage or other dues. Many vessels come hither for the purpose of seeking a market for the wares and merchandise which they have on board, and if, by reason of an abundant supply, there does not exist any demand for the goods with which they are laden, they are at liberty to depart free of expense.

A great many of these vessels find trade, and having so done, the difference of 9*d.* per ton on the ship's burden is of little consequence, in comparison with the freight received, the rate of which yields to each vessel from 3*l.* 10*s.* to 5*l.* per ton.

The following is a statement of tonnage dues collected for the last five years:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
1852 - - - -	679	10	9
1853 - - - -	755	13	3
1854 - - - -	1,245	8	3
1855 - - - -	1,920	9	0
1856 - - - -	1,734	3	0

I have perceived with much satisfaction that several vessels laden with African produce not liable to duty have come to entry at this port, for the purpose of discharging their cargoes, and placing them under the care of resident merchants, who enjoy the protection of the Local Government while within its jurisdiction, and this done, the vessel proceeds elsewhere, the goods remaining in the custody and under the control of the merchant, who exports or otherwise disposes of them, as may be convenient; and hence it will be seen

that, in the year 1855, when there was a falling off in the general revenue on imports, the tonnage money did not diminish, owing in a great measure to a part of the revenue being derived from ships independently of their cargoes.

Light Dues.

This impost of three pence per ton on ships entering the port has yielded a steady return for five years as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
1852	219	18	3
1853	379	18	0
1854	311	10	9
1855	355	4	9
1856	318	2	0

Revenue and Expenditure.

The revenue of this colony is drawn from the following sources, viz.:

Customs.
Land sales.
Licenses.
Rents of factories and houses.
Taxes.
Fines, forfeitures, and fees of court.
Fees of office.
Sale of Government property.
Reimbursement in aid of Government expenses.
Miscellaneous receipts.
Hospital stoppages. And
The Parliamentary grant.

These form each a separate and distinct head of account, with various subdivisions; and in stating the revenue for the year 1856 I shall confine myself to the general heads, without specifying those into which they are subdivided. It may be sufficient here to remark, that each item of revenue referred to in this report is assignable to one of the foregoing heads.

The following is a summary of the receipts in the colonial treasury from all sources during the past year:—

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Balance on hand 1st January		—		1,963	9	8¼
Received from local sources, as follows:						
Customs	15,472	16	5			
Land sales	227	9	6			
Licences	2,265	10	0			
Rents of factories, &c.	801	10	4			
Taxes	3,254	12	8½			
Fines, forfeitures, and fees of court	491	13	5			
Fees of office	3	16	0			
Sale of Government property	384	13	9½			
Reimbursement in aid of Government expenses	276	7	3½			
Miscellaneous receipts	180	11	7½			
Hospital stoppages	1,133	16	8			
Harbour master (afterwards transferred to Customs)	58	5	0			
				24,551	2	9
From Parliamentary grant				1,866	13	4
Total				£28,381	5	9¼

Against the foregoing receipts I shall now proceed to set down the expenditure for the same period, observing the same rule with respect to the general heads of account as I have done in noting the revenue.

Expenditure.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Paid from Parliamentary grant - -		—		1,866	13	4
Paid from local funds, as follows:						
Fixed salaries - - - -	13,499	1	5			
Provisional and temporary - -	267	12	6			
Allowances - - - -	444	18	10			
Contingencies - - - -	406	2	6			
Pensions, &c. - - - -	148	14	0			
Administration of justice, expenses of establishment - - - -	154	7	5			
Charitable allowances - - -	150	0	0			
Hospital, expenses of establishment -	1,197	7	4¾			
Police and gaols, expenses of establishment	1,167	5	8½			
Rents - - - - -	16	13	4			
Works and buildings - - -	3,758	0	7½			
Roads, streets, and bridges - -	620	19	4			
Miscellaneous services - - -	581	10	6			
Unestimated account - - -	46	12	0			
Aborigines - - - -	888	2	4			
Drawbacks and refund of duties - -	11	12	11½			
Remittances to agent-general - -	1,772	18	4			
Special service - - -	402	18	1½			
				25,534	17	3¾
Total - -				£27,401	10	7¾

If the balance on the 1st January 1856 is separated from the foregoing, it will stand thus:—

Revenue.

	£	s.	d.
From Parliamentary grant - -	1,866	13	4
From local sources - - -	24,551	2	9
Total - -	£26,417	16	1

Expenditure.

	£	s.	d.
Chargeable to Parliamentary grant - -	1,866	13	4
All other expenditure - - -	25,534	17	3
Total - -	£27,401	10	7

The actual expenditure would, according to this statement, appear in excess of the actual receipts for the year, 983*l.* 18*s.* 6*d.*, which may be accounted for from the fact of there being a large expenditure on works and buildings commenced in the year 1855, which it was absolutely necessary should be completed in the year 1856, and charged for in the accounts of the latter year.

I am quite aware of the necessity of keeping the expenditure on works and buildings within the amount which may be available from the revenue of each year, but it could not well be avoided in this instance.

In inserting under general heads the receipts and disbursements, so as to exhibit distinctly and separately the sources from whence the receipts have been derived on the one hand, and on the other the total expense incurred by each department of the Government, two items will appear in the abstract in the Blue Book of Revenue and Expenditure, and in the comparative yearly statements, which items, although regularly introduced in the quarterly statements transmitted to the Secretary of State, and in the colonial accounts rendered to Her Majesty's Commissioners of Audit, do not properly belong to this place. These are the receipt and repayment of deposits, and the expenditure on account of the liberated African department defrayed by the commissariat.

By an ordinance of the colony, intituled "An ordinance to provide for the "protection and administration of unrepresented estates," the receiver is required to lodge all his collections in the colonial treasury; and the colonial treasurer is, by the instructions of the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury directed to governors of colonies, and regulating the mode of keeping and rendering the accounts of colonial receipt and expenditure, required to include in his accounts all payments made to him by administrators of estates, courts of law, or in any other manner by way of deposits. The consequence is, that all such sums appear as revenue in the quarterly and annual accounts rendered.

	£	*s.*	*d.*
The deposits during the past year have reached the sum of -	2,803	19	6
The receipts on account of the liberated African department, by the commissariat - - - - - -	6,379	4	3
	9,183	3	9
To which, if there be added the amount of revenue, as shown before - - - - - -	26,417	16	1
gives - - - -	35,600	19	10

agreeing with the gross amount of revenue as shown in the Blue Book Return under the separately specified heads.

	£	*s.*	*d.*
The repayment of deposits during the year has been - -	676	6	0
The expenditure on account of the liberated Africans, by the commissariat - - - - - -	6,379	4	3
	7,055	10	3
To which, if there be added the amount of expenditure as already shown - - - - - -	27,401	10	7
gives - - -	34,457	0	10

agreeing with the gross amount of expenditure as shown in the Blue Book Return under separately specified heads.

Public Works.

The public buildings of the colony are of considerable magnitude and importance, and require much attention to keep them in a good condition. They have recently undergone very extensive repairs, together with some alterations and improvements. They comprise,—

1. Government House, Fort Thornton, transferred by the Ordnance department in August 1836, for the purpose of being converted into a residence for the Governor of the colony. It has ever since been kept in repair at the expense of the colonial Government. In 1853 it received the addition of a new wing.

2. The colonial secretary's office, the offices of the clerk of the crown, the registrar general, the sheriff, the postmaster, the house and land tax commissioners, and the residence of the colonial secretary, are all comprised in one range of buildings.

3. The gaol and house of correction, including the court hall, are under one roof; the court hall being in the upper story. Considerable sums have lately been expended in draining the gaol-yard; in the erection of solitary cells, detached from the prison; and otherwise improving the interior of the main building. There is also an hospital within the prison yard, for the reception of the sick prisoners.

4. The custom-house and police offices are in a spacious building under one roof; but they are divided by a partition running across the upper flight of rooms, and completely separating the two establishments. The ground floor of this building is under rent to a merchant of this colony, who uses it for a bonding warehouse, paying the Government a rental of 300*l.* per annum.

5. The colonial hospitals are situated in Freetown and the village of Kissy; the one in the latter place is used as a receptacle for patients suffering from the small-pox, Very extensive alterations and improvements have been made,

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in order to adapt the liberated African buildings in Freetown, transferred by the Imperial Government to the colony for this purpose, into a colonial hospital. In return, the Colonial Government gave up apartments at Kissy for the accommodation of newly-arrived Africans captured in slave ships.

6. The building appropriated to the mixed commission courts is the property of the Local Government, for which a rent of 110*l.* per annum is paid to the colony, exclusive of the upper story, in which the Governor and Council hold their sittings.

7. The engineer's office and workshop are well adapted for the purpose to which they have hitherto been set apart. At present, however, but little use is made of them, in consequence of a remodelling of the arrangements for superintending the public works generally, it being thought desirable to discontinue, as far as possible, the practice of purchasing stores and materials, and executing the works by means of mechanics and labourers employed at daily wages under a colonial surveyor or engineer, and to adopt the principle of executing work by contract. I cannot do better than transcribe in this place the very appropriate remarks of the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury on this subject, in a minute dated 22d January 1847, in which their lordships observed, that "besides the tendency which the system of Government executing its own "works has to the maintaining of expensive and sometimes redundant esta- "blishments, it is obvious that a large stock of stores and materials cannot be "kept up without considerable loss from wastage and deterioration. In "addition to which should be considered the labour and difficulty of esta- "blishing an efficient check and control upon the issue and consumption of the "stores, and upon the accounts of their purchase and appropriation."

8. The cathedral and parish church of St. George must also be noticed amongst the public buildings, the expense of its erection and repairs having been defrayed out of the local revenues.

9. To the parochial schoolroom, which was in a very dilapidated condition, has been added a commodious building, set apart for the education of boys under the direction of the colonial chaplain. It also serves for the performance of divine service two nights in each week. The old schoolroom has been repaired for the reception of female scholars, who, since the opening on the 5th January last, have regularly received instruction therein under a schoolmistress and assistant, superintended by the colonial chaplains.

10. The lighthouse at Cape Sierra Leone, with apartments for the residence of the officers, and accommodation for convalescents visiting that airy locality, is an establishment of much value and importance.

11. The Freetown markets consist of an extensive shed, with an enclosed space and stalls, a fish market, and a slaughter-house. The whole is farmed out at a rental of 350*l.* per annum.

12. The tank at King Jimmy's Fountain is erected of stone with a wooden covering. It is well supplied with pipes, and from thence the whole population of Freetown, as well as the ships of Her Majesty's navy and merchantmen coming to this place, are supplied with most excellent water.

13. District buildings. These comprise the manager's house, gaol, and market at Waterloo; a commodious and costly market house lately erected at Wilberforce; the manager's residence at Kent; and a spacious building on one of the Banana islands to which the officers of Her Majesty's navy frequently resort.

14. Freetown Wharf. This establishment stands first amongst the public works of the colony, not only as regards its importance to the mercantile interests of the community, but on account of its usefulness to the ships of Her Majesty's navy resorting here. A new and more extensive one has long been required. The experimental addition which has been constructed on a small scale has succeeded well. Considerable sums of money have from time to time been expended in keeping the wharf in repair. The amount, however, it amply repaid by a revenue which is derived therefrom through the customs, a statement of which for the last five years is as follows:

	£	*s.*	*d.*
1852 - - -	680	6	3
1853 - - -	831	7	6
1854 - - -	738	5	0
1855 - - -	743	13	9
1856 - - -	944	3	6

Several bridges have been built in Freetown, and culverts and drains supplied in places where they were very much needed.

Legislation.

The following is a list of the ordinances which have passed the Board of the Governor and Council during the past year.

" An ordinance to make provision for the employment of a superintendent " at the Isles de Loss."

" An ordinance to alter and amend an ordinance passed on the 7th day of " December 1853, intituled ' An ordinance to improve the harbour of Sierra " ' Leone, and to define the duties of the harbour master and pilots thereof.' "

" An ordinance to empower the assistant police magistrate to perform all " acts that may be lawfully done by the police magistrate."

" An ordinance to amend the laws in force respecting the warehousing of " goods, and the payment of duties on goods entered for home consumption."

" An ordinance for the naturalization of Charles Hazleborg in the colony of " Sierra Leone."

" An ordinance to amend the laws in force for regulating the duties of the " harbour master and pilots in the colony of Sierra Leone."

" An ordinance to establish a docket of fees for the remuneration of the " superintendent of the survey and admeasurement of ships in the colony of " Sierra Leone."

" An ordinance to repeal an Act to revive and legalise the market dues, and " all other Acts relating thereto, and to make other provisions in lieu thereof."

" An ordinance to provide for the civil list of the colony for the year 1857."

" An ordinance for transferring to one of Her Majesty's Principal Secretaries " of State the powers and estates within the colony of Sierra Leone in Africa " heretofore vested in the principal officers of the Ordnance."

" An ordinance to amend the laws with regard to the collection of tonnage " and other dues on ships and vessels."

" An ordinance to make provision for the employment of a second landing " waiter in the customs department."

" An ordinance to repeal the 4th and 8th clauses of an ordinance, intituled " ' An ordinance to amend the laws relating to the sale of spirituous liquors, " ' and to substitute other provisions in lieu thereof.' "

" An ordinance to consolidate and amend the several ordinances relating to " the militia of this colony, and to provide for the better organization of the " same."

Education.

The schools established throughout the colony under the care of the clergy of the Church of England and ministers of other denominations are well conducted. The attention of the Government has recently been more fully drawn to this subject. The law requiring that all alien children of African parents should be sent to some school renders it imperative on the Government to supply the lack of voluntary effort in providing sufficient accommodation for children that must be sent to receive instruction. There has consequently been an increase, not only of room for educational purposes, but also in the staff of salaried teachers. A grant was likewise made to the Wesleyan Methodists in the early part of this year, amounting to two hundred pounds, for the purpose of aiding them in their educational projects.

The number of scholars in the Freetown boys' school supported by Government was 290 at the close of last year; but it has so far increased that the number is now 360.

The number of girls in the Government school, established this year only, is 275.

The total number of children receiving instruction throughout the colony was 7,903 on the 31st December last. The Imperial Government assists, by the payment of six teachers for instructing liberated African children throughout the colony, numbered amongst the various bodies of Christians, the sum of seventy-two pounds per annum.

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Imports and Exports.

The imports during the past year reached the large amount of one hundred and fifty-three thousand one hundred and four pounds, and were as follows:

	£
From Great Britain - - - -	123,000
„ British Colonies - - -	482
„ United States of America - -	15,926
„ France - - - -	8,528
„ Teneriff - - - - -	135
„ Madeira - - - -	248
„ Spain - - - - -	38
„ other parts of the Western Coast of Africa	4,747
	153,104

The exports for the same period amounted to one hundred and eighty thousand three hundred and eighty-four pounds, and were as follows:

	£
To Great Britain - - - -	37,208
„ British Colonies - - - -	6,254
„ United States of America - - -	52,128
„ France - - - - -	57,757
„ Teneriff - - - - -	2
„ Madeira - - - - -	11
„ other parts of the Western Coast of Africa -	27,024
	180,384

Agriculture.

The nature of the soil of the colony is such as to preclude all hope of its ever becoming an agricultural country. Ginger and arrowroot are produced in small quantities; edibles, such as yams, sweet potatoes, and other esculents, are also raised, but not in sufficient quantities for the consumption of the population; but the soil in some of the adjacent countries is rich, and amply productive, and a constant supply of African produce is kept up through the medium of boats and canoes. The natives receive merchandise in exchange, and by this means become to a considerable extent the consumers of our imports. The exports of Sierra Leone are not drawn from the soil of the colony, but from the produce of native countries brought here and exchanged for merchandise; it ought not therefore to be any matter of surprise that the tendency of the inhabitants generally is to engage in trade.

Grants of Land.

The amount realized from grants of land during the past year has been 195*l.*, and a much greater sum might have been obtained were it not considered necessary to proceed with caution, in view of the measures which were about to be adopted in order more clearly to ascertain the relative rights between the Crown and nominal grantees of land. An increasing desire to purchase land is manifesting itself, and I have no doubt that an eager competition will shortly be created, and liberal prices obtained for lots of land over which the Crown has hitherto abstained from asserting its right. I can see no reason for adhering to the off-set price, or nominal value of five pounds, which has hitherto been put on each lot of land; and therefore as soon as the operation of the ordinance for the "settlement of claims to grants of land," and the registration ordinance, (both of which passed the legislature of the colony in February of the present year,) will enable me to do so I shall, with the sanction of Her Majesty's Government, consider the expediency of throwing the unoccupied land of the Crown open to the demand that may be created for the same, at such prices as can be obtained.

Concluding Observations.

I have reason to believe that the colony is in a state of progress; and when the heterogeneous mass of which the population is composed is taken into account, I am of opinion that much has been done; and with just and equitable

laws, administered in a spirit of charity as well as firmness, together with an unrestricted commerce, we may confidently hope for greater things. It shall be my earnest endeavour to promote the physical, moral, and intellectual advancement of its people, and the commercial interests of the colony.

A taste for the higher refinements of civilized life and for improved buildings is discernible. The unsubstantial structures of wattle and thatch are fast giving place to wooden ones, covered with slates or shingles; and in many cases the dwellings of the inhabitants are erected of substantial stone, evincing the increasing prosperity of the native residents.

I annex a letter addressed by Mr. Heddle, the first merchant here, to Doctor Baikie, superintendent of the present "Niger" expedition, feeling satisfied it will be read with much interest, containing, as it does, statistical information relative to an article of African export becoming daily of more consequence in the European markets, and pointing out its bearing on the physical condition and social comforts of the natives inhabiting the bights of Benin and Biafra, the palm country proper.

Mr. Heddle's communication may also prove acceptable to the Lords of the Committee of Privy Council for Trade.

STEPHEN J. HILL,
Governor.

Enclosure in No. 25.

Encl. in No. 25.

MY DEAR SIR, Sierra Leone, May 8, 1857.

IN our conversation of yesterday, I observed to you that it appeared singular to me, that among all the reasons urged on our Government to move it to renewed exertions to open the Niger to British enterprize, that which I hold to be the strongest and most unanswerable seems entirely to have escaped the attention of the promoters of that great commercial measure; I allude to the vast extension which the trade in the rivers emptying themselves into the bights of Biafra and Benin is about to take, and that almost immediately, from the kernel of the palm-nut becoming an article of export to Europe.

You are aware that the palm oil now exported is entirely made from the sarcocarp, or the fibrous pellicle that surrounds the nut, and that the kernels, with the exception of an insignificant quantity used for the manufacture of oil for domestic use, are thrown away.

The better to convince you of the value of these kernels, of the rapidity of the growth of the trade in them in our immediate neighbourhood, and of its importance, I enclose two returns; the first shows the quantity of kernels exported from this place from 1850 to 1856, inclusive; the other, that of the palm oil exported during the same period. In dealing with these returns, there are two things to be kept in view; the first is, that the return of kernels does not show the whole quantity exported from this place and its neighbourhood; a somewhat close approximation to this is, however, necessary, to arrive at the conclusion I have in view. As vessels loading in the neighbouring rivers do not take a clearance from our custom-house, many cargoes go annually direct to France, which consequently do not figure in our customs return. From other sources of information I am enabled, however, to estimate that quantity, at all events for each of the last two years, at about 60,000 bushels; this would then raise the whole quantity exported from Sierra Leone and those places in commercial dependency on it to 150,000 bushels. On the other hand, the return of palm oil exported shows a great excess over what is actually procured and made in the adjacent rivers, that is, in the same localities as those from which we obtain the 150,000 bushels of kernels, owing to the circumstance, that since our trade with Lagos has been opened several hundred tons are brought from there annually by our native traders, which when exported to Europe figure in our customs return; some oil also finds its way here from Liberia and other places to the south. Deducting these quantities from the return, I think what is actually made in our neighbourhood will be reduced to from 750 to 800 tons. I shall assume the first to be the correct quantity, and that 150,000 bushels is a fair relative proportion of kernels obtained in the manufacture of 750 tons of palm oil. On reference to the customs return of kernels exported you will perceive that the trade only dates from 1850. In that year only 4,096 bushels were exported. In 1852, two years after, the exports had reached 46,727 bushels, and in 1856, 90,282 bushels. To all these years there is of course to be added the quantity shipped direct from our rivers to France.

Now, if among such a population, and in a country that cannot be considered as native to the palm tree, this trade has in a few years made such rapid strides, this habit of industry has gained so much on the people, that during the past year 150,000 bushels of kernels were collected and brought to market, to procure which at least 350,000 bushels of palm nuts must have been boiled and stripped of the sarcocarp by the human hand, and subsequently broken, and the kernels separated from the shell, and then carried to a market many miles distant, thus giving, it must be admitted, a

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most emphatic denial to the often-repeated assertion that the negro will not labour except on compulsion, what results are we entitled to expect whenever this trade should be generally introduced amongst the vast and industrious populations that occupy the districts proper to the palm tree?

The quantity of palm oil imported into England from the West Coast of Africa in 1856 was estimated at 45,000 tons. To this we have to add the very considerable quantity exported to the United States, France, Hambourg, and other continental ports, and which cannot be estimated at less than 5,000 tons; thus making the whole quantity exported from the West Coast of Africa 50,000 tons. Admitting then the 150,000 bushels of kernels obtained in the neighbourhood of Sierra Leone to be the fair relative proportion of the 750 tons of palm oil procured from the same localities, it follows that the 50,000 tons of oil should give 10,000,000 bushels of kernels, equal to 223,000 tons, worth, at the high price obtained for them in France in 1856, 89,200,000 francs;—we ought to arrive at nearly the same results in England.

It has been ascertained that the average yield of oil from these kernels is 30 per cent.; the 223,000 tons should consequently give 67,000 tons of oil, worth at the present price of cocoa nut oil, which it closely resembles in all its properties, 3,350,000*l.*

If we add to this the value of the cake, 112,000 tons, at the very low value of 4*l.* per ton, we should obtain 448,000*l.*, making the whole gross value 3,790,000*l.* The whole quantity of tallow exported from Russia in 1856 is estimated at 2,574,121 poods, or 45,916 tons, which at the present price of 55*l.* per ton would give 2,528,130*l.* It follows, then, that the kernels now thrown away in the manufacture of the 50,000 tons of palm oil exported from Africa are worth 1,216,870*l.* more than all the tallow exported from Russia in 1856. In estimating the value of this trade to Great Britain, there is to be taken into consideration a fact of the utmost importance, and which will render it more valuable whenever it is established than any other she is now engaged in. It is, that our trade with Africa is entirely a barter trade; that whilst we pay Russia almost entirely hard cash for her tallow, the whole value of these kernels will be paid for in British manufactures and colonial produce; whilst the transport of 223,000 tons of produce from Africa to England will give additional employment to that extent to her seamen and shipping; and this question assumes still greater importance when taken from another point of view; that is, when we consider the effect this new industry must have in the course of a few years on the habits and well-being of the African. I believe that the degraded position he now occupies in the scale of humanity proceeds rather from the want of all occupation in early life than from any cause innate in himself. The manufacture of palm oil and the collecting of such other produce as they can find a ready market for with the European trader, limited as it is by their limited knowledge of our requirements, can occupy but a small portion of the population? Whilst the growth of their own food, in a country with a tropical sun and six months of tropical rain, affords employment only to few women in each village, and occupies but a few weeks in the year, the rest of the population grow up in that unvaried idleness which I believe is the one great cause of their poverty and of their crimes, and of those frightful diseases that prostrate the physical and mental energies of a large proportion of them. Whenever this population can be brought to occupy itself with the kernels of the palm nut, this state of things will immediately change; every member of every family above the age of three years will not only have employment, but remunerative employment, during every hour of every day in the year. Thus the habit of labour will be created, and will bring with it other habits and new wants, and simultaneously with these wants the means of ministering to them. It is difficult to estimate the immense change which this must effect in the moral and physical condition of the native. Clothe him in a manner suited to his humid climate, give him a more roomy and better ventilated hut, feed him on wholesome food, and in a few years those diseases which originate in filth, in damp, and bad food will disappear.

These are no idle speculations; they are capable of proof, and the proof lies at our very door. Let any one who knew the Mellacourai and other rivers in our vicinity twenty years ago visit them to-day, and then let him testify to the almost miraculous change that has taken place in the manners and habits of the people, in their intelligence, in short in their entire physique and morale. This change dates entirely from the time the culture of the ground nuts was introduced among them. Material causes produce the same effects on the African in his country as on the Englishman in his; the only difference will be in the rapidity with which effect will follow cause. The change is slower with the savage, but not less certain.

You may say that this trade has yet to be created. I grant it; but I have shown you the facility of its creation, and the rapidity of its growth, amongst a people placed under the greatest possible disadvantages. The readiness with which the natives have betaken themselves to this new occupation has been fully illustrated in our neighbourhood. No portion of Africa, except its deserts, is more thinly peopled. The places from which we procure these kernels have until the last two years been annually decimated, nay, almost swept of their inhabitants, by the razzias of the slave dealer, and their own cruel superstitions.

The natives are, moreover, physically and mentally inferior to the tribes south of Cape Palmas; but in spite of all this the trade has become what it is in the short space of four

years. Now I have a right from this to assume that its growth will be still more rapid amongst those so much more favourably situated. If we wanted additional evidence of this, we have only to look at the marvellous progress of our present palm oil trade. It scarce dates so far back as the present century. In 1808 the quantity imported into England was only 200 tons; in 1851 it had reached 50,000 tons; and it is only during the last five years of that period that the steam vessel has come to the aid of African commerce. What, then, are we entitled to expect in the next twenty years, when the distance between the oil-growing countries in Africa and England shall have by steam-power been reduced by at least two thirds, and when steam shall ply, which it is about to do, on that artery of Africa, the Niger. Indeed no quarter of the world affords such natural facilities for such a trade. The whole country is a network of natural canalagation; it commences at Cape St. Paul, and extends to the Bonny, running parallel to the coast in its whole length, and extending hundreds of miles into the interior in every direction. The 40,000,000 which Russia would astutely borrow from Europe for the formation of her railways would, if expended on her territory, produce no such facilities for cheap transport as nature has gratuitously bestowed on this part of Africa.

I shall now leave these facts in your hands. Whilst here you will have an opportunity of testing their accuracy, and of correcting any error into which, in my deductions from these facts, I may have fallen, for I do not pretend to scientific precision. I can only say that I have as far as possible endeavoured to avoid all exaggeration.

If after examining them you are convinced that I have arrived legitimately and fairly at the conclusion I aim at,—that a trade perfectly practicable and of great importance is within our reach,—you will, I have no doubt, as your present mission to Africa is so intimately connected with its future commerce with your country, do all in your power to direct to it, not only the attention of your government, but of those of your friends in England who have taken so great an interest in your present undertaking. They will, I am confident, whether philanthropists or practical men of business, do all in their power to hasten the development of a commerce of such vital importance to Africa and to England.

I remain, &c.
(Signed) C. HEDDLE.

To Doctor Baikie, R.N.,
&c. &c. &c.

No. 1.

STATEMENT of Palm Oil exported from the Colony of Sierra Leone during the years specified below—

Years.	Gallons.
1850	285,032
1851	212,577
1852	307,988
1853	181,438
1854	304,406
1855	364,414
1856	463,130
Total	2,118,995

Custom House, Sierra Leone,
18th February 1857.

No. 2.

Port of Freetown, Sierra Leone.

RETURN showing the Quantity of Palm Nut Kernels exported from the Colony, as follows, viz.:

Years.	Bushels.
1850	4,096
1851	2,925
1852	46,727
1853	29,699
1854	25,399½
1855	65,388
1856	90,282
Total	264,516½

Customs, Sierra Leone,
30th January 1857.

GAMBIA.

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No. 26.

No. 26.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor O'CONNOR to the Right Honourable H. LABOUCHERE, M.P.

(No. 31.)

Government House,
Bathurst, Gambia, July 27, 1857.

(Received, September 11, 1857.)

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward the "Blue Book" of this colony for the year 1856.

Revenue.

2. My talented and experienced predecessor, Governor MacDonnell, well versed in the resources and internal economy of Gambia, proved, in his comprehensive report on the "Blue Book" for 1851,—

3. That the colonial revenue, amounting to 4,540*l.* in 1840, advanced to 8,484*l.* in 1851, "or in eleven years had nearly doubled itself."

4. It is with more than ordinary satisfaction I am able to state, that the revenue has gradually progressed since I assumed this government in 1852 from 8,756*l.* 4*s.* 5*d.* to 12,304*l.* 3*s.*, or nearly one half more in five years, and I venture to predict it will not retrograde; on the contrary, in 11 years, I mean in 1863, a revenue of considerable amount may be fairly and rationally calculated on.

TABLE No. 1.

Years.	Revenue. £	s.	d.	Imports. £	Exports. £	No. of Vessels entering.	Tonnage in British Vessels.	Tonnage in Foreign Vessels.	Total Tonnage.	Seamen.	Years.
1852	8,756	4	5	110,174	217,856	258	5,307	23,967	29,274	2,342	1852
1853	11,244	14	5	105,896	185,825	240	11,482	21,618	33,100	2,620	1853
1854	9,737	16	8	124,047	173,882	231	9,140	19,480	28,620	2,394	1854
1855	10,515	5	6	126,454	215,804	211	5,695	26,924	32,619	2,452	1855
1856	12,304	3	0	108,852	176,577	221	14,397	17,541	31,938	2,495	1856
	52,558	4	0	575,423	969,944	1,161	46,021	109,530	155,551	12,303	

Public Works.

5. The expenditure on public works during the past year has been mainly confined to repairing the lower and upper piazzas of Government House, long in a dilapidated condition.

6. The public market continues to yield a very liberal rate of interest for the sum it originally cost, 2,700*l.*, the renting of the stalls reaching 550*l.* in the year 1856.

7. I would recommend provision be made for constructing a court-house, public offices for the colonial secretary, customs, and engineer;—

8. For purchasing the powder magazine, at present in the hands of a few individuals, and removing it from its improper and dangerous position to a safer and more desirable site.

9. A public wharf would greatly facilitate discharging and embarking cargoes, and produce a return, if not so great as the market, still commensurate to the capital expended.

10. Last, but assuredly not least, a church for the established religion has been long required.

11. Divine service is now performed by the colonial chaplain in an unconsecrated room, not capable of accommodating more than two hundred persons.

12. A small iron church, similar to the one at Belize, Honduras, or in the Port Royal Mountains, Jamaica, would prove most suitable for Gambia.

Retrospective Commerce.

13. In Mungo Park's time, that famous epoch in the annals of Western Africa, and from which so many of its events date, the trade of the River Gambia was carried on by two or three vessels, and the annual exports were under 20,000*l.*

14. The colony steadily progressed until 1840, when the imports and exports advanced with rapid strides.

TABLE No. 2.

NUMBER OF VESSELS, Tonnage, Imports and Exports, from 1840 to 1855.

Year.	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	Imports.	Exports.	Year.
			£	£	
1840	255	14,009	105,441	124,587	1840
1845	241	21,132	119,187	154,801	1845
1851	239	25,491	107,011	186,404	1851
1855	211	32,619	126,454	215,803	1855
	946	93,251	458,093	681,595	

15. In 1840, 255 merchant vessels entered Gambia; their tonnage amounting to 14,009 tons; the imports, 105,441*l.*; and the exports, 124,587*l.*

16. In 1845, 241 merchant vessels entered Gambia; their tonnage, 21,132 tons; the imports, 119,187*l.*; and the exports, 154,801*l.*

17. In 1851, 239 merchant vessels entered Gambia; their tonnage, 25,491 tons; the imports, 107,011*l.*; and the exports, 186,404*l.*

18. In 1855, 211 merchant vessels entered Gambia; their tonnage, 32,619 tons; the imports, 126,454*l.* 3*s.* 10*d.*; and the exports, 215,803*l.*

19. In comparing the imports and exports of Sierra Leone for 1855, it appears from the Blue Book the former amounts to 114,910*l.*, and the latter to 170,547*l.*; there is, therefore, an excess in favour of Gambia of 11,544*l.* on imports, and of 45,256*l.* on exports in 1855.

20. This great increase in the exports may be fairly attributed to the ground nuts, an article in Gambia commerce of comparatively recent date.

21. In 1836 the value of ground nuts exported was only 838*l.*, and in one year it sprung up to 8,053*l.*; in four years, that is in 1840, the exportation of ground nuts was 15,209*l.*; and in twelve years, 1852, ground nuts were exported to the value of 153,098*l.*

22. In 1855 the exportation of ground nuts was 149,713*l.* 13*s.*, while the same exported from Sierra Leone amounted to only 27,617*l.*, leaving an excess on ground nuts in favour of Gambia of 122,096*l.* The trifling decline from

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1852 is attributable to the war in Barra, the disturbances up the river, and the insurrection in Combo during some years to 1853, all harassing the natives, destroying large farms, and checking the trade.

23. The subsequent restoration of tranquillity in the river, Barra and Combo, the increased cultivation, and favourable season, raised the exportation of ground nuts during the half year ending 30th June 1857 to 9,424 tons, or 113,093*l.* 9*s.* for six months.

TABLE No. 3.

QUANTITIES of GROUND NUTS exported from the Port of Bathurst during the half year ended 30th June 1857.

France.	Great Britain.	United States.	Gorée.	British West Indies.	Total.
Tons cwts. qrs. lbs.	Tons cwts. qrs. lbs.	Tons. cwts. qrs. lbs.	Tons cwts. qrs. lbs.	Tons cwts. qrs. lbs.	Tons cwts. qrs. lbs.
7,948 10 2 24	182 10 0 0	1,131 15 2 0	118 3 3 0	43 8 3 0	9,424 8 2 24

24. It is a singular fact, and well worthy of observation, that four principal articles of exportation from Gambia have sunk into insignificance in a brief space of time.

TABLE No. 4.

	1836.	1837.	1838.	1839.	1840.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Gold - - -	5,010	1,712	1,218	1,339	1,289	10,568
Gum - -	20,809	15,077	21,755	25,144	1,636	84,421
Ivory - - -	7,055	7,278	4,083	5,386	4,759	28,561
Teak Wood - -	12,355	12,374	4,974	4,522	5,176	39,401
Total - £	45,229	36,441	32,030	36,391	12,860	162,951

In five years the exportation of gold dwindled from 5,010*l.* to 1,289*l.*; gum, from 20,809*l.* to 1,636*l.*; ivory, from 7,055*l.* to 4,759*l.*; teak wood, from 12,355*l.* to 5,176*l.*

25. Pass we over ten years, and in 1851 the gold exported from Gambia was nil, gum 1,361*l.*, ivory 846*l.*, and teak wood nil.

26. In five years more, 1856, the gold exported was 202*l.*, gum 212*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.*, ivory 218*l.* 4*s.*, teak wood nil.

27. Thus four articles of exportation, yielding in 1836 45,229*l.*, in 1856 returned 632*l.* 6*s.* 6*d.*

28. In truth it demanded some singularly productive and profitable article of commerce to pull up the lee-way of such an unprecedented falling off, and this proved the "ground-nut" trade;—a trade that, as cultivation spreads, the circulation of articles for general consumption increases, commercial reciprocity is encouraged, and good faith preserved with the various tribes;—the monopoly, hitherto enjoyed by a few large houses, terminates, and the profits of the trade no longer engrossed by them, but subdivided amongst a greater number of humble, industrious, persevering natives;—a trade, I say,

that will render Her Majesty's settlements in the River Gambia progressive, prosperous, and profitable, and raise them to their legitimate position among the first colonies on the western coast of Africa.

29. By means of that great artery the noble river, navigable for vessels of 300 tons 300 miles from its mouth, presenting a fair water road for hundreds of miles into the interior, Gambia may be the means of promoting civilization and peace among the nations and tribes, not only along and adjacent to its banks, but even induce the wandering children of the desert, the Fouta-Foulahs, Fouta-Toros, Tukulos, and Serruhoolies to seek the society, learn the fashions, acquire the wants, and emulate the industry of the white men.

30. Agriculture and commerce are the soundest and safest agents to develop the resources of this portion of Africa, to open a more general and attainable market for our home manufactures, and immeasurably increase our importations, exportations, and colonial revenue.

Oyster Creek Ferry.

31. While absent in England for the recovery of my health, the Acting Governor, Mr. Colonial Secretary Robertson, effected a vast improvement in the transit of the "Oyster Creek," by purchasing a safe, commodious, and well-adapted boat or scow, worked by paddle-wheels. This affords every facility to the settlers at Cape Saint Mary and in British Combo, and to the numerous natives, the Iolas, the dealers in palm wine, to frequent Bathurst Market.

32. Having previously obtained the sanction of the Home Government, and duly considered the matter, I abolished the toll of the Oyster Creek Ferry, which produced a paltry and uncertain increase to the revenue, and pressed very heavily on the poorer agricultural classes of the community. A man or woman, cultivating a patch of ground, might have a bundle or two of ground-nut grass, half a dozen fowls, baskets, bowls, calabashes, a bully of palm wine or oil, a few bushels of rice or corn, some vegetables or fruit, for sale; but being compelled to pay a toll of twopence coming and twopence returning over the creek, the little profit arising from the proceeds of their goods was almost swallowed up.

33. I have been much gratified by observing the increased number of men, women, and children, coming from the Cape and Combo in large parties, carrying various kinds of produce to Bathurst; and after the usual greeting, for the African is studiously civil to his Governor, I am hailed with a joyful exclamation, since "there is no copper to pay at the ferry."

Combo.

34. Having happily proved successful in terminating the disastrous war between Demba-Sunko, king of Barra, and Ansumana Jaggi, the Surruhoolie chief, plundering and burning towns, and sweeping away produce, cattle, and even people, to exchange for guns and gunpowder with the adjacent tribes, I removed Ansumana and his most rebellious warriors to Fatatenda, 300 miles up the river, the nearest port en route to their country, and saved the lives of some 400 Surruhoolie followers who were at the king's mercy.

35. Long convinced that the territory ceded to the British in 1853 was totally useless if not brought under cultivation, and puzzled how to dispose of 400 hard-working but very hungry addition to my subjects, I made two expeditions through Combo, and located in detached parties the Surruhoolies, placing other tribes between them.

36. I am in expectation that if this experiment succeeds, and so far it promises to do so, if the Surruhoolies and other agricultural natives are encouraged, the 8,000 acres of arable land acquired in 1853 will not prove a mere useless extension of territory, but a fruitful district, yielding considerable quantities of ground nuts; and no part of the coast produces finer or heavier. Corn, grain, yams, vegetables, cotton (indigenous, was formerly cultivated and manufactured to a great extent on both banks of the river, but want of proper machinery for cleaning it has retarded its constituting a feature in our trade;—this valuable commodity might be raised in Combo to any extent) and indigo,

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hemp, fibrous plants, toullacouna (a bitter oil from a most prolific nut), the Benna seed, palm oil;—in fine a thrifty industrious population is alone required to render British Combo a priceless accession of territority to that "old sand-"bank, Saint Mary's Isle," quaintly described as "barely perceptible above "the level of the sea, the centre of the island being a swamp, and the houses "in the upper part of the town inundated in the rainy season; here and there "a patch of ground on which labour has been lavished, where some sickly "vegetation seems to be doing violence to the poverty of the soil."

Albreda.

37. On March the 7th, 1857, a convention was concluded in London between Her Britannic Majesty and the Emperor of the French, the Queen relinquishing the right of trade to the Bay and Fort of Portendic, River St. John, the Emperor ceding the French factory or comptoir at Albreda, on the north bank of the River Gambia, with the rights thereof, to the British.

38. Thus a long pending vexatious question, fertile in material for correspondence, a bone of jealousy to the commercial communities of both nations in Gambia, a pretext and covert opening for contraband traffic, and a thorn in the sides of the British settlers, was removed.

32. The French have free access to the river, but are confined to reside, that is, establish trading firms in Bathurst and Albreda, the latter where French subjects were then resident. French vessels to be subject to the same duties as British, and every article imported or exported in French vessels to pay the same duty as British.

40. By an ordinance enacted 30th December 1845, several duties were levied on all goods and merchandise imported into the River Gambia, transhipped or landed in any of the British settlements in the river, or taken up the same, save and except wares and merchandise landed from French vessels at the French factory of Albreda.

41. French vessels laden with any description of goods or merchandise had only to be reported at Bathurst, receive a pass from the collector of customs, proceed to Albreda, land their goods, and, as a matter of course, dispose of them to the best advantage.

42. The French trader, having no duties to pay, could undersell the British trader.

43. The French were stringently prohibited proceeding beyond Albreda; but to prevent canoes conveying merchandise up the river, or active agents trading with the natives, or transporting goods and wares, guns and gunpowder, tobacco and rum, across the country, was far easier to legislate than effectually enforce.

44. This became so manifest, that an ordinance was passed in July 1853, for the better regulation of the River Gambia, prohibiting foreign vessels or canoes to navigate the river, except French vessels to and from Albreda and Bathurst.

45. Vessels, boats, or canoes, British or foreign, conveying goods and merchandise, produce or property, not British-owned, were liable to a penalty of 100*l.* and seizure. The sum of 200*l.* a year was placed at the disposal of the collector of customs, Bathurst, for the prevention of smuggling.

46. But with every disposition on the part of the executive to carry out effectually this ordinance, it proved a practical failure.

47. In November 1854, a small revenue cruizer with a river police were posted opposite to Albreda, made a few paltry seizures, fomented the hostile feelings between the British and French traders, sharpened the wits of smugglers, nearly embroiled us with the king of Barra and other chiefs, increased considerably the colonial expenditure, and eventually captain, crew, and cruiser became so utterly worthless that all were about to be withdrawn, when the treaty of March the 7th reached Bathurst.

The Treaty.

48. My own impression of the convention is, it will tend to spread our trade far more extensively and universally among the natives; it will put a stop to contraband traffic, for British and French pay duties alike; it will throw open

the river to legitimate competition; it will upset monopoly, and reduce considerably the prices of all articles for general consumption; it will save the necessity and expense of our merchants employing small vessels and petty traders, frittering away time and lavishing money collecting ground nuts and produce, obviate the delay in conveying cargoes to Bathurst, and transhipping them into the homeward-bound vessels.

49. The British merchant can charter a French vessel direct to any or every port, or the most distant factory in the river, dispose of his goods, and return with their proceeds to be despatched at once to the European market.

50. As to the undue advantage the French acquire by sending vessels beyond Albreda, this is a mere querulous cavil; the French can reside only at Bathurst or at Albreda under special provisions, and at no other station, "save such as "may hereafter be appointed by Her Britannic Majesty in Council."

51. Finally,—I speak on the authority of some of the leading, most influential, and largely engaged firms, men of long tried experience in African affairs, and thoroughly acquainted with its resources and commerce,—"The British do not "fear the competition of the French in a fair field of commercial encounter."

Crime.

52. Considering the mixed itinerant material composing the population of this colony—natives of all tribes, colours, shades denominations,—protestants, Roman catholics, methodists, Mahomedans, pagans,—men entertaining very different opinions on almost every subject, especially as to the meaning of "meum" and "tuum," it is only an act of common justice on my part to bear honourable testimony to the good and orderly conduct of the Bathurst inhabitants. The very small amount of crime, and how minor the offences are, will be seen by the following tables. (Nos. 5 & 6.)

53. The first exhibits the number of cases brought before the quarterly Supreme Court of Oyer and Terminer for the last five years.

TABLE No. 5.

Months.	1852.		1853.		1854.		1855.		1856.		1857.		Total.		
	Guilty.	Not Guilty.	Guilty.	Not Guilty.	Guilty.	Not Guilty.	Guilty.	Not Guilty.	Guilty.	Not Guilty.	Guilty.	Not Guilty.	Guilty.	Not Guilty.	Total.
March - -	–	–	8	5	1	1	–	–	–	–	3	2	–	–	–
April - -	–	–	2	–	–	–	3	2	6	5	–	–	–	–	–
July - -	–	–	6	4	9	1	–	–	5	1	4	3	–	–	–
August - -	–	–	–	–	–	–	7	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
November - -	10	2	17	8	9	4	–	–	8	3	–	–	–	–	–
December - -	–	–	–	–	–	–	12	4	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Totals -	10	2	33	17	19	6	22	8	19	9	7	5	110	47	157

54. The second, prepared by the Queen's advocate and magistrates of police, gives the number of cases tried in the police court for the last twelve months.

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TABLE No. 6.

DATE.	Assault.	Breach of Recognizance.	Disturbing the Public Peace.	False Weights.	Furious Riding.	Infringement of Market Ordinance.	Insubordination and Neglect of Duty.	Nuisance.	Refusing to receive current Coin.	Removing Sand from the Beach.	Rogue and Vagabond.	Slaughtering for Sale elsewhere than in the Public Slaughter-house.	Smuggling Palm Wine.	Allowing Tippling on Premises on Sunday.	Trespassing.	Total.
1856:																
August - -	13	–	24	–	–	5	2	4	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	49
September -	3	–	24	3	–	8	1	7	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	47
October -	3	–	30	–	–	13	8	2	–	–	–	–	2	–	1	59
November -	12	–	43	–	–	3	11	2	–	–	5	–	3	–	–	79
December -	3	–	27	–	–	9	3	2	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	45
1857:																
January - -	4	–	16	–	–	10	4	–	–	–	1	–	4	–	–	39
February -	–	1	25	–	1	6	3	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	37
March - -	3	1	13	–	1	6	11	2	–	–	–	–	8	–	–	45
April - -	1	1	32	–	1	6	5	3	–	–	–	–	5	–	–	54
May - -	5	1	37	3	1	4	5	1	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	58
June - -	2	3	49	–	2	4	3	2	–	2	1	1	–	–	–	69
July - -	6	–	35	1	–	3	2	3	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	51
	55	7	355	7	6	77	58	29	1	2	10	1	22	1	1	632

General Observations.

55. There is a rapidly rising consistent improvement in the industry, domestic relations, morality, and general bearing of the native merchants, traders, artificers, and commonalty of Gambia.

56. Not a few enterprising, energetic, industrious men are struggling with the barriers which have hitherto restrained them, and are pressing boldly onwards towards independence;—men, humble, respectable, thrifty,—I will add, loyal;—men who don't deserve to be thrust into the back ground, or kept blindly in the dark, as incompetent to understand and unworthy to be made acquainted with the leading, nay the every day affairs of this colony;—

57. Men who pay their customs, duties, taxes, and have proved themselves zealous, able, and willing to come forward to defend and protect Gambia;—men who, kindly treated, judiciously encouraged, fairly and firmly governed, and freely admitted to their legitimate rights as British subjects, stand on equal ground, and are as worthy useful members of society as those of any other branch of this community.

58. The days have fortunately faded away, and the prejudices are almost buried in oblivion, when caste and colour stereotyped the condition and character of a British settler;—when,—no matter how honest and honourable in all his dealings, exemplary in the various relations of life, pains-taking, God-fearing,—the shade of his complexion, and not the sterling worth of his heart, or the strength of his capacity, constituted the criterion of his respectability, and marked the line of demarcation between him and his white brethren.

59. I am not nor have I ever been an advocate for imposing a high-pressure system upon a rising class of people, or for forcing them into a precocious state of civilization; but this I maintain, and perhaps some thirty years' experience of Africans and African character may plead as an apology for my offering so freely this opinion,—this I maintain,—the manly, liberal, independent declaration of the British merchants regarding the French, "we fear them not in a fair field of commercial encounter," is most apposite to the native inhabitants of our colonies on the western coast of Africa. I embrace all three:—give them time, opportunity, and a "fair field," and they will not flinch from "the encounter" with their white brethren in all the social qualifications constituting an honest man, a good citizen, and, perhaps, at no very distant period, in commercial competition.

I have, &c.

(Signed) L. SMYTH O'CONNOR, Governor.

Right Hon. H. Labouchere,
&c. &c.

GOLD COAST.

No. 27.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Acting Governor CONNOR to the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE, M.P.

(No. 18.)

Cape Coast Castle, March 2, 1857.

SIR, (Received May 14, 1857.)

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you herewith in duplicate the Blue Book of this Government for the year 1856.

2. Previous Despatches of mine in the year will have led you to anticipate an increased expenditure, and of course the raising of the customs duties would induce the expectation of an increase in that branch of revenue.

3. The expenditure in last year and in the preceding one are as follows: 1855,–8,501*l.* 11*s.* 10*d.*; 1856,–10,771*l.* 14*s.* 6½*d.*; excess of 1856,–2,269*l.* 2*s.* 8½*d.* It will be observed, however, that the arrears of expenditure at the commencement of last year exceeded those a year previously by the sum of 915*l.* 7*s.* 9*d.* We had then in 1856 two items of a peculiar and exceptional nature: compensation to natives injured in the January riot in Cape Coast, 291*l.* 3*s.* 6*d.*, and expenses attending Major Ord's meetings with the chiefs, 410*l.* 11*s.* 9*d.* I include the former of these items because it swells the figures of expenditure, though the Government really had only to pay 3*l.* 3*s.* 6*d.* because of the fine on the occasion amounting to 288*l.*, and which appears in the Blue Book on the revenue side as an incidental receipt.

4. It will be observed further, by referring to the Poll Tax "Statement and Account" of each of the two years, enclosed in my Despatches, No. 20, of 10th March 1856, and No. 9, of 10th January last, that the expenditure in matters chargeable to that branch of revenue exceeded in 1856 that in the previous year by the sum of 1,684*l.*, though in that there is not included, of the sum of 291*l.* 3*s.* 6*d.* mentioned in paragraph 3, more than the balance 3*l.* 3*s.* 6*d.* the fine of 288*l.* not having been entered as a receipt as not being properly allocated to poll tax revenue. Adding the 288*l.* to the 1,684*l.* the excess of this branch of expenditure in 1856 over 1855 would appear 1,972*l.*, showing that the excess in 1856 over 1855 of expenditure in matters chargeable to revenue, other than the poll tax, was not more than 297*l.*

5. The excess of expenditure in poll tax matters arose not only or principally from the two items referred to in paragraph 3, but because of extension of the education system, because also of the year 1856 being the first year during the entire of which the salaries of both of the two physicians to the Africans at 300*l.* a year each were chargeable; because, again, of a greater expenditure in material improvements, and the extended collection in 1855 requiring an increased number of collectors, whose salaries were principally paid on their passing their accounts in 1856.

6. One important cause of increase was however the payment of the poll tax stipends of chiefs whose presence at Cape Coast led to more rapid applications for payment than there would have been if they had remained in the bush. One of these stipends is of, as it appears to me, an unfortunately large amount, viz., that to the chiefs of Cape Coast Town. This had been promised by the Lieutenant Governor in the absence in 1853 of the Governor, and the latter was, I believe, unwilling to confirm it. The matter was, however, left unsettled when the administration of the Government devolved on me, and as, contingently on the collection of the poll tax, the amount in question was assured under the hand of a Lieutenant Governor, and with the public seal affixed, I always felt that I should have great difficulty in rescinding it; and after Major Ord's departure in 1856 the sum was paid in full for the collections of 1854 and 1855, and amounted in the whole to the sum of 238*l.* 10*s.*, a sum of 22*l.* 10*s.*, part of it, having been previously paid, and the original total amount was in fact increased by the yearly sum of 9*l.*, in order to include one of the seven "companies" of the town which had been originally omitted.

7. The revenues of the two years stand as follows: 1855,–9,830*l.* 9*s.* 3½*d.*; 1856,–12,917*l.* 10*s.* 9*d.*; excess in 1856,–3.087*l.* 1*s.* 5½*d.* This apparent excess

GOLD COAST.

is, however, principally occasioned by there being included in the Blue Book of 1856, under the head "Receipts in aid of Revenue," the sum of 2,572*l.* 7*s.* 5¾*d.* the balance in hand on 31st December 1855, while the balance in hand on 31st December 1854, was not included as a part of revenue in the Blue Book of 1855.

8. The customs receipts of the two years stand as follows: 1855,–614*l.* 1*s.* 9*d.*; 1856,–1,741*l.* 10*s.* 5¼*d.* In order to estimate, however, how the Ordinance increasing the duties worked, there ought fairly to be added to the sum of 1,741*l.* a sum of about 200*l.* which was remitted to certain parties early in the year on the plea of their being taken by surprise, and also a sum of upwards of 300*l.* which the Acting Collector of Customs informs me was owed at the end of the year 1856 by solvent persons for goods imported during the year. These sums together would show what may here be called a receipt of 2,250*l.* for customs duties.

9. The year 1855 was a large import year, and the amount of duties received in it at the then rate of import duty, one half per cent., was considerably above an average. The average receipt of customs duties for the ten years, 1846 to 1855, was 379*l.* 16*s.* 9*d.*, and for the five years, 1851 to 1855, 386*l.* 10*s.* 11*d.*; in 1855 the amount was 614*l.* 1*s.* 9*d.* The rate of duty during the year 1856 cannot, calculating the various changes, be estimated, I conceive, higher than 2¼ per cent. for the entire year. This amount bears, I need not say, to one half per cent. the proportion of 9·2, and therefore the average at 2¼ per cent. for the ten years, 1846 to 1855, calculating on the above basis, would have been 1,710*l.*, and for the five years, 1851 to 1855, 1,740*l.*, whereas I have shown that the duties of 1856 may be reckoned as amounting to 2,250*l.* The duties of 1855 reckoned in this way would have been 2,763*l.*

10. The amount in value of imports appears in the returns considerably less for 1856 than 1855. They stand as follows: Imports 1855,–149,587*l.* 5*s.* 8*d.*; imports 1856,–105,634*l.* It will be observed that this last-mentioned amount of imports corresponds nearly with the sum of 2,250*l.* which I have stated is to be regarded as the receipt for duties in 1856, for from this latter we calculate an importation of duty-paying articles to the amount of 100,000*l.* (i.e. 2,250*l.* $\times \frac{100}{2\frac{1}{4}}$). The value of imports being in 1856 taken from the returns made by the importers for the purpose of assessing the duty are not likely to show the entire value.

11. The export trade of the year was, I fear, depressed by an alarm of Ashantee invasion spread by some of the natives of the Gold Coast, who said that they had been stopped in Ashantee by an army on its march, and these men being almost immediately released hastened back across the boundary and then to their chiefs telling their story as they went. Many Ashantee traders then in the protected territories were in consequence seized in several towns and their property detained, even after they themselves were released by my orders. I am happy to say that, though the property was detained as I have said, it does not seem to have been appropriated, and a captain of the King of Ashantee, sent up by him to me for the purpose, is now in company with some soldiers and constables sent by me, recovering through the country the detained property; and the King of Ashantee has already sent a further messenger to thank me for the progress which is being made in the recovery. These events, however, prevented, almost entirely during the last three months of 1856, the Ashantees trading in these settlements. I may perhaps be excused introducing here an anecdote connected with the last-mentioned Ashantee messenger. It was announced to me on the 22d ult. that this messenger from the King of Ashantee had arrived accompanied by six gold-handed swords; these, however, turned out to be three double-handed swords. The messenger came to me on the 25th ult. to wish me good bye, and on going away, and after I had shaken hands with him, which seemed to have emboldened him, he asked me to accept an Ashantee pipe worked to represent a double-headed snake striking two birds. I asked had he seen a double-headed snake; he replied that he had, and that in consequence the King of Ashantee had the swords which accompanied him, and which I have mentioned, made double handed, and called him, the messenger, the double-headed man. I said I hoped he had the wisdom of two heads, and his look seemed to imply that such was the meaning of his appellation. I have thought that perhaps this article, which thus came into my possession, and the anecdote might not be uninteresting, and that some museum would be

glad of the present, and the pipe will accordingly be forwarded in the despatch bag.

12. With reference to the poll tax revenue, the year 1856 was an exceptional one; I am glad that it proved even as productive as it has. I have, by my Despatch No. 9, of 10th January last, reported that the Akim countries had promised to resume paying the tax, and I have now the gratification to add that remittances have been received from each collector of the two Akim districts.

13. The educational returns show that both our schools and scholars increased in number during the year.

14. There was much sickness during the year, and many of the military officers were invalided home; two died here and one on his passage to England; the wife of another of the officers died here. The year was remarkable on this account, that—there being a prevalent opinion in the country that, as leap year, there would be very heavy rains,—there was, in fact I may almost say no rain in the usual rainy season at this place and in the country lying eastward of it and for about thirty miles westward of it, comprising the much larger part of the protected territories. The second rains were for them heavy, and most seasonable in their supply of water. There has, happily, not been anything as far as I am aware that can be called famine. The first crop of corn very much failed, but it is not, I am told, much an article of food in the interior, and they have the good fortune in this country of being able to have a second crop of corn in the year. They appear as easily and simply a fed people as any in the world. The trees give them plantains, palm nuts (for soup), palm wine, and bananas; I may also add they give them monkeys whose bodies they eat, and whose skins with the hair (black and grey) are sent in quantities to Europe, and were I am told in the winter of 1856–7 one of the most fashionable of ladies' furs. In some merely physical respects the people are of the proverbial class fortunati nimium.

15. Having now for three successive years reported on the Blue Book of this Government there is little in the way of general observation of novelty and interest appertaining to the subject which I could add here. I trust that even during that period the protected territory and the Government have advanced. In the latter, notwithstanding its protracted provisional administration, the progress of system, vigour, and British appreciation in the country has I hope continued. In the settlements and protected territory I hope that peace, justice, education, and medical aid, and diffusion of employment and trade among the natives, and greater estimation of agricultural pursuits and production of the staple article of export on the Guinea Coast, palm oil, have fostered or are the results of progressive improvement. I do not mean that any individual makes perhaps now such profits as were formerly made, but I see nothing in that to qualify my position.

16. In my report last year I referred to the want of beasts of burden. Since then some attempt has been again made to keep horses here, and one officer lost by deaths three in about as many months. There are however at present two ponies living here. I inquired from the King of Ashantee's messengers lately here whether they had horses at Coomassie, but they said they had not; that they were brought to them from the interior, and that they sent them on to the water side; that even in the interior great care is expended on them, mentioning as instances that they are washed and their feet looked after, and their teeth, mouths, and tongues cleaned, and added that any person trying to keep a horse here ought to get a man from the interior to groom him.

17. It is gratifying to part with political subjects on a point so unpolemical as horse grooming.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. CONNOR,
Acting Governor.

The Right Hon. H. Labouchere,
&c. &c. &c.

ST. HELENA.

ST. HELENA.

No. 28.

No. 28.

COPY of DESPATCH from Governor HAY to the Right Honourable H. LABOUCHERE, M.P.

(No. 26.)

St. Helena, May 28, 1857.

(Received July 29, 1857.)

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward the Blue Book of St. Helena for the year 1856.

2. The variations in the details of this document from year to year must ordinarily be small.

3. Entirely dependent on the number and importance of the homeward-bound shipping from the East resorting to the port for supplies (averaging about one thousand ships per annum), the condition of the island and its inhabitants, its revenue and expenditure, is proportionately uniform.

4. The returns for the past year, at the termination of which I assumed the government, offer no prominent facts for remark, but I shall be prepared at a later period to lay before you the results of my observation and inquiries during the present year on the condition and prospects of the island.

I have, &c.

(Signed) E. H. DRUMMOND HAY,

Governor.

Right Hon. H. Labouchere, M.P.

&c. &c.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

[*The Annual Report for* 1856 *has not been received from the Cape of Good Hope.*]

NATAL.

NATAL.

No. 29.

No. 29.

COPY of DESPATCH from Lieut.-Governor SCOTT to the Right Honourable H. LABOUCHERE, M.P.

(No. 53.)

Government House, Natal, June 26, 1857.

(Received October 15, 1857.)

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the Blue Book for the year 1856.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. SCOTT,

Lieut.-Governor.

Right Hon. H. Labouchere, M.P.,

&c. &c.

PART IV.

AUSTRALIAN COLONIES AND NEW ZEALAND.

PART IV.—AUSTRALIAN COLONIES AND NEW ZEALAND.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

No. 30.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

No. 30.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor General Sir W. DENISON to the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE, M.P.

(No. 158.)

Government House, Sydney,
December 23, 1857.
(Received March 16, 1858.)

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith the Blue Book for the year 1856; my absence at Norfolk Island, as mentioned in my Despatch No. 5, dated 28th October last, and my confinement to my bed since my return from thence in consequence of a severe accident, from which, however, I am now recovering, will explain the delay which has occurred in transmitting these statistical returns.

In drawing your attention to the contents of this book, I think that the condition of the colony will be brought more clearly before you by the course which I am adopting, of referring first to the numbers and condition of the population as shown by the census taken on the 1st March 1856, the returns of which occupy upwards of 100 pages of the book, namely from page 685 to page 799.

The report from the Registrar General, which is prefixed to these returns, is a valuable document. It enters into an analysis of the various facts exhibited in the tables, to some of which I now propose to direct your attention.

The increase in the population of New South Wales during the interval which has elapsed between the census of 1851 and that of 1856 has amounted altogether to 78,946 persons, or to 42·1 per cent. In former Blue Books it has been usual to submit an approximate estimate of the population, deduced from the previous census by adding to the number of the population therein shown the balance of births over deaths, and immigration over emigration. As, however, the Government has not been in possession of any returns of those who may have left the colony by crossing the boundaries which separate it from Victoria and South Australia, these approximate estimates can never be correct; and accordingly we see that whereas in the Blue Book of 1855 the population was stated to amount to 277,579 persons, the returns of the numbers actually in the colony on the 1st March 1856, or two months later than the date of the Blue Book, give only 266,189; so that instead of an increase of two or three thousand, there is an actual falling off of 7,857.

I concur with the Registrar General in attributing this difference to the unnoted emigration across the frontier. The existence of this drain, fluctuating in amount as it must do in proportion to the temptation held out by the Gold Fields on either side of the frontier, will of course invalidate the accuracy of any estimate of the population not based upon an actual enumeration.

The returns of the census of 1856 show, as I have before stated, an increase during the last five years equivalent to 42·1 per cent., and although it would not be quite correct to say that the increase during such year of that period has been one fifth of the above, or 8·2 per cent., yet this will give a sufficiently close approximation to the truth, to justify an inference as to the proportion of any increase of revenue which may be due to the addition made to the number of consumers.

On reference to the returns it will be seen that the increase of males has been slightly in excess of that of females, and this must be expected when a large proportion of the general increase is due to immigration; but on taking the aggregate number of males and females as shown in the returns for 1851 and 1856, it will be seen that while in the former year the females formed 43 2 per cent. of the population, their proportion had increased in 1856 to 44·7 per cent. The disparity of the sexes, which was one of the great evils with which

the colony was afflicted, is therefore rapidly decreasing. The table in page 693 shows, that since 1828 the annual average increase of males has been 16·5 per cent., while that of females has been 38·8 per cent.

The returns which exhibit in a general way the state of education are by no means satisfactory, either absolutely or relatively. The report of the Registrar General shows, that a very large proportion of the children between the ages of 4 and 14 are altogether uneducated, and the comparison between the returns of 1851 and 1856 shows, that little has been done during the last five years to place the means of education within the reach of the scattered population of the colony. Upon this subject I shall have more to remark hereafter.

The increase in the population during the last five years has been 42·1 per cent., while that of the houses has been at the utmost, including tents and drays, 36 per cent., or, exclusive of these, only 31 per cent. This fact is sufficient to account for the very great increase in house rent, for it would appear that in order to give the present population the same amount of accommodation which was afforded in 1851, upwards of 3,400 houses would have to be built. This is an evil which is likely to go on increasing until the price of labour is reduced, for although very high rents are asked and paid for houses affording a very limited amount of accommodation, yet the cost of erection is so great as to leave, even with these high rents, but a small margin of profit to the builder. I call this an evil, and indeed a great one; for I look upon it as likely to have a very prejudicial influence upon the health, character, and habits of the people. In a sanitary point of view, the effect of crowding persons together in such a climate as this cannot but be most injurious, and the pressure which compels persons to be satisfied with a very inferior amount of accommodation to that to which they have been accustomed, which thrusts the occupant of a house into a small cottage, and makes the cottager resort to a mere bark hut, will probably after a time, should it continue, have the effect of permanently lowering the standard of comfort and convenience which each class of society establishes for itself, and of generating slovenly and untidy habits among all classes.

The other subjects to which the Registrar General has alluded in his report are either so fully treated by him as to render any remark of mine unnecessary, or will be alluded to under other heads of this Despatch. The effect of the establishment of the office of Registrar General will, I have no doubt, show itself in the greater accuracy of all statistical returns; and the tables from page 981 to page 1,020 at the end of the Blue Book will every year become in consequence more correct and more useful.

The comparative statement of the revenue collected in 1855 and 1856 shows that the gross receipts of 1855 were 1,660,710*l*, while those of 1856 were 1,986,553*l*., the difference 325,843*l*. being the increase of revenue in the latter year; but as these totals include not only the land revenue, but also the amount borrowed, no inference can be drawn from them as to the progress of the colony. If, however, we deduct the sums raised by loan, amounting in 1855 to 630,966*l*., and in 1856 to 856,538*l*., and also the land revenue (including the assessment on stock), amounting in 1855 to 336,674*l*., and in 1856 to 346,986*l*., the balance showing the revenue from ordinary sources will be as follows:—

In 1855 - 693,070*l*.
1856 - 783,029*l*.

the difference 89,959*l*., or the increase in 1856 being 12·9 per cent. The increase in population will, as it has been shown, account for about 8 per cent. of this. The additional 4·9 per cent., amounting to 34,000*l*., may be due partly to the increased duties imposed upon certain articles towards the end of 1855, and partly to the general improvement of the colony. The increase in the customs does not fall far short of 50,000*l*. or 11·7 per cent. It is, however, impossible to say how much of this is due to the increased rate of duty, and how much to increased consumption, without entering into an analysis for which the returns furnished by the customs and other departments do not afford sufficient data. It is evident that of this 11·7 per cent., 8 per cent. must be charged to the additions made to the population.

The revenue derived from the sale of land has fallen off during 1856 to the extent of upwards of 25,000*l*. This may, I think, be attributed in a great measure to the prevalence of an idea that some steps would be taken by the Legislature either to lower the upset price, or to afford some greater facilities to the purchaser than are held out by the existing regulations. The same cause

NEW SOUTH WALES.

will, of course, continue to operate so long as the policy of the Government in relation to the waste lands of the Crown continue unsettled.

The expenditure during the year 1856 exceeded that of 1855 by 160,110*l.* The total outlay during the former year being 1,835,134*l.*, while in 1855 it amounted to 1,675,024*l.*

On reference to the returns it will be seen that there has been an increase of charge under nearly every head of expenditure. The principal additions, however, will be found under the heads of interest upon debentures and public works, the cost of these latter being defrayed out of the money raised by the sale of debentures. Under the head of interest upon debentures the increase has been 51,918*l.* 12*s.* 2*d.*; and under the head of public works there has been an additional outlay of 123,964*l.* Against the charge for interest should be set the receipts from the railway, amounting to 11,157*l.*, these are the net amounts after the payment of all current expenses. And though the interest upon the capital expended is very much in excess of their net receipts, yet I have no doubt but that in the course of a few years, the existing railways, which form the trunks with which all the great lines of communication must connect, will, if judgment and discretion be shown in the extension of them into the interior, pay a very good interest upon the capital expended upon them.

The expenditure for the survey, sale, and management of Crown land was 81,611*l.* in 1856, and 78,728*l.* in 1855, showing an increase of 2,883*l.*, while the receipts for the sale of land, as shown in the statement of the comparative revenue, were less than in the previous year to the extent of 25,000*l.* The expense of the survey and management of Crown lands, if thrown altogether upon the proceeds of the sale of such land, would amount in 1855 to 29·9 per cent., or 5*s.* 9¾*d.* in the pound upon the receipts, while in 1856 the charge would be 33·23 per cent. of the receipts for land sold, or 6*s.* 7¾*d.* in the pound. On referring to the table at page 934, it appears that the per-centage of 6*s.* 7¾*d.* per pound would amount to a charge of upwards of 9*s.* per acre upon the land sold, as this did not amount to more than 117,753 acres. Any proposition therefore to lower the upset price of land, should its practical effect be to lessen the amount paid per acre, would in effect diminish the net amount paid into the Treasury. The proposal to reduce the upset price seems to me to proceed upon an erroneous idea of the motives which induced the Government to adopt the particular sum of 20*s.* as a minimum. It appears that the sum of one pound is considered to be the measure of the minimum value of the land, instead of being the measure of the minimum amount of the charge which would have to be defrayed from the proceeds of the sale of the land, such charge comprising, 1st, the expense of survey and management; 2d, that of constructing roads and providing access to the land, so as to enable the settler to bring his produce to market; 3d, that of immigration, or, more correctly, of furnishing the settler with the means of cultivating his land to advantage. By an analysis of the charge of survey and management, it would seem that this, at the present time when the price of labour is high, and therefore the work of surveying costly, has cost 33·23 per cent., or 6*s.* 7¾*d.* per pound. The charge for roads and bridges in 1856 amounted to 66,858*l.*, and notwithstanding this outlay, which is exclusive of the expenditure on railways, all the main lines of communication were almost impassable; that is, an expenditure of 27·2 per cent., or about 5*s.* 6*d.* in the pound, was altogether insufficient to keep the principal thoroughfares in a passable state. The expenditure upon immigration in 1856 amounted to 120,647*l.* or 49·1 per cent. of the receipts from the sale of land; and yet the wages of every description of labour are very high, so that in 1856

The charge for survey and management being - -	33·23
That for the repair of roads - - - -	27·2
That for immigration - - - - -	49·1
Total -	109·53

shows that the sum received from the sale of land was not sufficient to defray the charges which are fairly thrown upon that source of revenue. I am aware that there is an idea that a reduction in the price of land to 5*s.* per acre would induce a much greater sale, and that the proceeds of the Land Fund would be very much increased; it is, however, very questionable whether a much greater sum would be expended upon the purchase of land than is now the case, though

more land would of course be sold. It is possible that for a year or two persons would be tempted to invest money in land upon speculation, but this would very soon come to an end, and the sooner because the withdrawal of a certain amount of money now deposited in the banks, and made available thereby for mercantile investment, would increase the value of money, raise the rate of interest, and thus diminish the value of the land purchased. Irrespective, however, of this, I would observe, that all the charges defrayed from the proceeds of land sales are acreable charges; the survey must be paid for per acre; the more land is sold the greater extent of road which must be or ought to be made to afford access to it; the more land is sold the more hands will be required to enable the purchaser to derive a profit from it. Any measure therefore which would have a tendency to reduce the price of land below an amount which is inadequate to defray the charges fairly placed upon the Land Fund, would in point of fact either throw upon the community in general a charge which ought to be defrayed out of the price of the land, or induce a neglect of two matters of the utmost importance to the prosperity of the colony, namely, the introduction of a sufficient amount of labour, without which capital cannot be profitably employed, and the maintenance of proper means of communication, without which the purchaser of land cannot possibly cultivate it to advantage.

The only portion of the return of the Commissariat expenditure to which it is necessary to draw attention is that which refers to the maintenance of the Imperial convicts. In page 168 a return is given of the total number of colonial and Imperial convicts. In page 170 a return is given of the total charge for the discipline and maintenance of those convicts who are under punishment, the average cost, as there shown, being 52*l.* 1*s.* 5*d.*, for each convict. An allowance, however, is made for the value of the work performed by these convicts, which reduces the amount of the charge from upwards of 1,700*l.* to 195*l.* 16*s.*, or to about 6*l.* per head.

The local revenues, of which the returns are furnished in pages 172 to 179, consist of those which are administered by the corporation of the city of Sydney: first, for paving and lighting the streets; second, for supplying the town with water; and third, for establishing a proper system of drainage and sewerage.

The corporation now consists of a mayor and 15 aldermen, elected under the provisions of the Act 20 Vict. No. 36, and the funds at the disposal of this body consist, first, of the rates which it is empowered to levy; and, secondly, of an endowment from the Government, or a composition for the rates which the Government buildings would be liable to, amounting to 10,000*l.* per annum.

The corporation has had transferred to it the powers vested in the commissioners by the Acts 17 Vict. Nos. 34 and 35, intituled respectively the Sydney Sewerage and the Sydney Water Act; and it is now carrying on the works for which the legislature in those Acts sanctioned the outlay of certain amounts to be raised by the issue of debentures. When these are completed, the interest will be paid out of the proceeds of special rates. The water will be procured from a reservoir at the distance of about seven miles from Sydney, into which the drainage of a large area of country discharges itself. The water which falls upon the whole of this area is subjected to a process of natural filtration, as it has to pass through a thick bed of sand. It comes to the reservoir in a very pure state, and will be from thence pumped by three powerful engines to reservoirs high enough to command all the houses in Sydney and its suburbs. The supply available is adequate to the wants of a population three times as numerous as that of Sydney at present; and there will be no difficulty in extending the area, which may be made to discharge itself into the reservoir should any necessity of increasing the supply present itself.

In pages 178 and 179 returns are given of the revenue and expenditure of certain road trusts. The total amount raised is small, and the results of the expenditure upon the roads by no means encouraging. The Government contributes a small amount in certain instances in aid of the amount raised by the tolls. I trust that in the course of a short time some comprehensive scheme for the maintenance of the roads of the colony will be sanctioned by the Legislature, for at present nothing can be more miserable than the condition of the roads after any wet weather.

The works which have been undertaken for the defence of the harbour of Sydney are approaching their completion. When they are finished and armed,

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any attempt to annoy the town, or to injure or carry off the shipping anchored in the harbour, can only be made at the risk of very heavy loss, for a cross fire is established from five heavily armed batteries upon every access to the anchorage. For the manning of these works the colony is dependent upon the military force stationed at Sydney, consisting of one regiment of the line and one company of artillery. During the war with Russia, volunteer corps were formed of cavalry, artillery, and rifles; but on the restoration of peace, these corps have dwindled away, and may be said to have become extinct. Should, however, any occasion arise which may call for their services, I have no doubt that a body of men might be speedily organized which would co-operate energetically and usefully with the regular troops. Until, however, such a necessity shall arise, I do not think it probable that under the present circumstances of the colony any effective military body could be maintained.

A large sum has been expended in various public works during the course of the year. In page 218 a recapitulation is given of the amount expended under different heads, the total of which is 748,250*l.* 6*s.* 3*d.*; of this 115,770*l.* has been appropriated to the repair of different public buildings, to the erection of the defences before alluded to, and to the completion of various buildings for the Judicial Establishment, the Police, and other Departments of the Government. A large sum has been appropriated to the repair of different lines of road; but, as I have before stated, this amount has not been in any way adequate to maintain these in a passable state. 365,858*l.* has been expended upon the extension of the lines of railway from Sydney and from Newcastle, 58,675*l.* has been advanced to the commissioners or the corporation of Sydney for the construction of the sewerage work, and 69,207*l.* for the water works, 30,000*l.* has been paid to the senate of the university, as the remainder of the sum of 50,000*l.* voted for the purpose of erecting the necessary buildings, in which great progress has been made. 3,000*l.* has in like manner been paid to the trustees of one of the colleges affiliated to the University for a similar purpose; and 25,000*l.* to the trustees of the Sydney Grammar School. The buildings for which these sums were appropriated will probably be fit for occupation early in 1858.

The returns which have reference to education are by no means satisfactory; the population abstracts, as I have before noticed, show that a very large proportion of the children of the colony are altogether untaught; and a comparison of the number of children on the books of the existing schools with the number of those of an age to attend school will show one of two things,—either that these children have not the means of attending school,—that is, that there are no schools within reach of them,—or that their parents are indifferent to the welfare of their children, and care not to afford them that amount of instruction of which they themselves have not felt the want. On reference to the population returns, it would appear that of persons about 21 years of age there are 22,794 who cannot read,—that is, nearly one fifth of the adult population have not even the rudiments of education. There are 46,607 children between the ages of 7 and 14, of these 11,318 cannot read; and if we refer to the number of children who attend school, we shall find there are only 20,426 on the books. Owing to the absence of any efficient system of training masters for these schools, and more especially of any sufficient inducement to well informed persons to devote themselves to the business of tuition, the instruction afforded at the schools which do exist is of very inferior quality. There are no proper inspectors of schools whose business it ought to be to report to the Government periodically upon the state of the schools. In fact there is nothing in the shape of a proper system of instruction or supervision provided. The Legislature has shown itself willing to appropriate funds for educational purposes. It has made large grants for the establishment of a grammar school, for colleges, and a university. A sum, too, is voted annually for the primary schools; but it has not placed in the hands of Government any sufficient power to regulate and methodize this expenditure; and until this is done I cannot anticipate any satisfactory results from the outlay. The actual amount of money which would be required in order to afford a proper education to the 46,000 children between the ages of 7 and 14 is one very great difficulty in the way of the introduction of a good system, and one that I cannot expect to see overcome unless some special rate or tax can be appropriated solely to this purpose; and

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this tax should be one that would bear a constant ratio to the population, as in that case the amount would increase exactly in proportion to the demands upon the education fund thus raised.

The returns of imports show an increase over those of the preceding year to the extent of nearly 17 per cent.; this increase has taken place principally in the trade with England, and the British Colonies, and the United States of America. There has been a reduction in the trade with Foreign States to the extent of 214,474 tons. The value of articles exported has increased from 2,884,130*l.* in 1855, to 3,430,880*l.* in 1856, or to the extent of about 19 per cent. There is, however, a serious omission in these returns, inasmuch as they give no account of an enormous export of sheep, cattle, and horses which has taken place to Victoria overland. It is difficult to form even an approximate estimate of the number or value of the stock which has passed into Victoria by this route. On reference, however, to the return in page 994, showing the number of live stock in the colony on the 31st December of each year from 1847 to 1856 inclusive, it will be seen that there was a reduction of sheep to the extent of 866,176, and as the average annual increase would appear to have been about 4 per cent, this decrease can only be accounted for on the supposition of an exportation to the extent of nearly a million sheep in the course of 1856. The returns, as I have said before, show an average annual increase in sheep to the extent of about 4 per cent. The increase of cattle may be put at 8 per cent., but as the average increase of the population in New South Wales is 8 per cent., and that in Victoria very far in excess of this, it is evident that if the cattle and sheep are only now adequate to maintain the existing population, in a few years other means must be taken to increase the amount of stock, or a change must be made in the habits of the population, and people must be content with a much smaller allowance of animal food than they at present consume. At present the live stock in New South Wales is more than adequate to the wants of the population, bnt if the people of Victoria already require upwards of 10 per cent. of the sheep of this colony to supply them with food, there will be a very rapid reduction in the number of live stock, and a very marked change must speedily take place, either in the system of management of the land, or in the domestic habits of the people. The returns from which these inferences are drawn cannot I admit be depended upon as absolutely correct; but as the information has been obtained in the same manner for several years, the probability is that the proportions are accurate. I trust, however that the importance which must attach to inquiries in which the whole population is so much interested will lead to a more systematic and correct mode of prosecuting these statistical inquiries.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. H. Labouchere, &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) W. DENISON.

VICTORIA.

VICTORIA.

No. 31.

No. 31.

Copies of DESPATCHES from Governor Sir H. Barkly to the Right Hon. H. Labouchere, M.P.

(No. 10.)

Government Offices, Melbourne, 19th January 1857.

Sir, (Received 11th April 1857.)

No. 10. Enclosure A. Duties and Taxes.

1. As the duty of forwarding the annual Blue Book of 1855 has devolved upon me, I must endeavour, notwithstanding I only arrived in the colony at the end of 1856, to point out the most noticeable features of the returns comprised in it; but I shall do so briefly, as they have lost much of their interest from lapse of time.

State of Public Finances.

2. The general tariff of import duties remained as settled on a somewhat advanced scale at the close of the preceding year by 18 Vict. No. 9.

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3. An export duty of 2*s.* 6*d.* per ounce of gold came into operation in the month of April 1855, as a substitute for the heavy licence fees previously exacted from miners; and not only worked more smoothly, as was anticipated, but produced a larger revenue.

4. The tax of 10*l.* per head imposed on every Chinese arriving, by 18th Vict. No. 39, came into force from the 12th June, and proved a complete failure in a fiscal point of view. Its effect has been to compel vessels from China to repair in the first instance to South Australia, whence their passengers proceed overland to the gold fields; but it is thought by its advocates to have thus indirectly checked this objectionable species of immigration.

Revenue and Expenditure.

5. The confusion arising from the defective system of imprests formerly prevailing in the Treasury here having continued throughout 1855, I regret to find the accounts as furnished afford extremely meagre and unsatisfactory information of the financial position of the colony during that year.

6. As that system was abolished from its close, and the amount of unadjusted imprests did not then much exceed two hundred thousand pounds, I was in hopes that a correct analysis of the entries proper to each year's service would by this time be attainable as a supplement to the Blue Book return, but I am informed that it cannot, even yet, be perfected.

7. The nominal gross revenue stands in the return

At - - - - -	£4,962,333
As against - - -	6,154,928

in 1854, showing an apparent decline of 1,192,595*l.*, but as the imprests for 1854, adjusted in 1855, were less by 691,590*l.* than those for 1853, adjusted in 1854, this deficit is reduced to about half a million sterling.

8. The "General Revenue," omitting moneys included under that title, though raised by way of loan, appears in fact to have been rather larger than in the previous year, the deficit thus shown being entirely chargeable to the "Territorial Revenue" as then distinguished; the falling off in the receipts for Crown lands sold having amounted to no less than 562,715*l.*

9. The comparison between the two years ought, it would seem, to stand as under:—

—	Gross Credits.	Adjustments.	General Revenue.	Territorial Revenue.
1854.	6,154,928	2,342,176	2,386,398	1,426,354
1855.	4,962,333	1,650,586	2,462,221	849,526
	decr. 1,192,595	decr. 691,590	incr. 75,823	decr. 576,828

The loans credited to the general revenue in 1854 being 590,000*l.*, whilst in 1855 the amount realized by sale of debentures was 562,812*l.* only, would make a further difference of about thirty thousand pounds in favour of the latter year.

10. The accounts of the expenditure are still more complicated than those of revenue. The gross debits, including imprests unadjusted at the end of each year, are—

in 1854 - - -	£6,043,049
and in 1855 - - - -	4,716,696
showing a decrease in the latter of	1,326,353

and it is probable the actual outlay for the year was diminished in nearly equal proportion, for the reduction under the head of Public Works is stated at 628,939*l.*; that under the kindred title of Waterworks, at 265,877*l.*; whilst the remittances to England were less by 175,787*l.*, (a saving effected at the expense of emigration,) the decrease under these three heads alone being thus considerably more than a million.

11. The expenditure for the services of 1854 has been finally adjusted at little over four millions, and whatever that of 1855 may prove, there can be but little doubt it will turn out, like its predecessor's, considerably in excess of the nett revenue of the year, notwithstanding the enormous reductions carried

out by Sir Charles Hotham, by means of which, and by the subsequent improvement in every branch of the revenue, all trace of the financial crisis, which at one time threatened to be so formidable, has been obliterated.

Public Debt.

12. Strictly speaking, indeed, the year 1855 did lay the foundation of a public debt for the colony, 480,000*l.* (? 560,000*l.*, page 56) having been borrowed out of 800,000*l.* authorized by 18th Vict. No. 40, to be raised for supplying Melbourne and Geelong with water; but as the debentures are to be gradually liquidated by those directly benefited, it must rather be looked on as a legitimate guarantee of the credit of the citizens, than a burden on the general population.

Local Revenues.

13. Beyond this weighty engagement, no addition was made by the corporation of either city to their permanent liabilities; but it will be seen from the returns they send in that the expenditure in Melbourne was upwards of fifty thousand pounds beyond their income; and in Geelong the more modest sum of five thousand was over-spent;—no very strange result, when it is borne in mind that the civic authorities of both were actively engaged in meeting the unforeseen requirements of the vast masses of human beings which had flocked under their jurisdiction in the two or three preceding years.

Military Expenditure.

14. This item, which is entirely provided for by the legislature of this colony, and, I believe, by no other British possession, rose from the sum of 110,736*l.* in 1854, to 159,664*l.* in 1855, owing mainly to the expenses entailed by the riots at the Ballarat diggings; though to the extent of 7,041*l.*, accounted for by the establishment of local corps.

Public Works.

15. Notwithstanding the large reduction, already mentioned in the expenditure under this head, the labours requisite for keeping pace with the rapid development of the material resources of this extraordinary country were not entirely pretermitted during the financial crisis. Very extensive improvements of all kinds will be seen to have been in progress throughout the colony; wharves and piers were completed to accommodate the shipping; custom houses and post offices built to secure the revenue; court houses, gaols, and public barracks for the prevention of crime; roads and bridges constructed for facilitating internal communication.

16. As a dispassionate observer, indeed, I feel bound to state, that whatever complaints may have been made on any of these points, it is impossible to contemplate what has been done in the last five years to introduce the appliances of an advanced stage of civilization into a trackless wilderness without the utmost admiration and astonishment. Still more rapid progress may fairly be anticipated under the popular representative institutions recently granted; but it would be most disingenuous to ignore what has been already accomplished under the old and much abused form of government.

Civil Establishments.

17. The diminution in the number of office holders in the year, from 1,800 to 1,500, no less than the reduction of salaries, noted at almost every page of the return, attests the reality of the retrenchment effected at so great a cost of personal popularity by Sir Charles Hotham.

18. The exceptions to the latter rule of reduction are assignable to the introduction of responsible government on the 27th November 1855, the heads of the department then made political becoming entitled to the higher rates of salary provided for them in the new Constitution Act.

Pensions.

19. The immediate addition caused to the pension list by this event was trifling, as the previous holders were, with two exceptions, re-appointed to office.

Condition, &c., of the People.

Population.

20. The population statistics given do not seem very reliable. A census taken in the best manner practicable on 26th April 1854, gave a total of 236,798 souls, and the calculation as carried on subsequently, by adding the known increase through immigration and natural causes, brings that total up to 319,379 on 31st December 1855, exclusive of 2,500 aborigines.

21. No record, however, is kept of the arrivals overland of Chinese and others from New South Wales and South Australia, which must considerably exceed the departures by the same routes, so that the comparison between immigrants and emigrants is confined to those coming or going by sea. These in 1855 were 66,571 and 26,395 respectively,—showing a nett increase of 40,176;

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whilst there were 11,941 births registered as against 6,603 deaths, making an addition from that source of 5,338; in all, an accession 45,314 souls in the year or more than 16 per cent. on the previous year's population.

22. The sexes are not specified in these returns, but it is to be feared that notwithstanding the endeavour of the Government to correct the excess of males by assisting more females to procure free passages from the British isles, this evil has been enhanced owing to the unsought influx of Chinamen, and that the census about to be now taken will exhibit a disproportion in this respect of at least 2 to 1.

Education.

23. Great progress continues to be made through the liberal aid of the legislature in extending the means of instruction. The comparison with the returns of the previous year stands as under:—

Schools receiving State Aid.	1854.		1855.	
	No.	Scholars.	No.	Scholars.
Through National Board - - - -	43	3,014	59	3,532
Through Denominational do. - - -	216	14,364	311	17,711
	259	17,378	370	21,243
Private Schools - - - -		1,902	168	3,235
Total educated - - - -		19,280		24,478

Showing an increase of upwards of five thousand scholars.

24. Nor does the system seem to check private exertions, for in addition to the government grant of 11,421*l.* for National Schools, 5,051*l.* was collected by voluntary contributions; and in the case of Denominational Schools, the still larger proportion of 39,385*l.* was added to the aggregate grant of 59,242*l.*

25. The principal denominations accepting aid were

The Church of England,—educating about	-	7,000	children.
Presbyterian churches	„	- 2,500	„
Wesleyans	„	- 4,000	„
Roman Catholics	„	- 4,000	„

Trade and Commerce.

Exchanges, &c.

26. The enormous speculative shipments of produce and manufactures from Great Britain to this market, occasioned by the excitement of the gold discoveries, led, as is well known about the middle of 1854, to a violent commercial re-action which, aided by the immense expenditure within the colony itself for public works and improvements not productive of immediate return, gave rise to the financial crisis already alluded to.

27. The downward progress of affairs continued with even greater intensity through a considerable portion of 1855, as is perceptible from the returns now under examination, although the improvement which took place towards the end of the year renders it less striking.

28. The fluctuations in the rate of exchange on London were in consequence numerous and extreme, ranging from 4 per cent. premium to par, at which it closed.

29. The amount of paper currency circulated by the seven banking establishments of the colony, which at the highest point of the preceding year had risen to nearly two millions and a half sterling, declined rapidly, and even on the entire year averaged below two millions (1,967,676*l.*)

Imports.

30. The value of imports which in 1854 had reached the startling sum of 17,659,051*l.*, declined in 1855 to 12,007,939*l.*, showing a decrease of 5,651,112*l.* or about one-third.

Those from the mother country fell off in even a greater proportion, viz. from 10,942,375*l.*, to 5,617,149*l.*, nearly the whole of the decrease having been under that head, the inter-colonial traffic having slightly increased, while that with foreign countries was almost stationary.

Shipping.

31. The falling off in the number of vessels arriving was of course to nearly an equal extent, only 551,726 tons having been entered inwards against

794,604 tons in 1854, and towards this but 277 ships from Great Britain contributed, instead of 650 as in the preceding year.

32. The comparison of entries outwards was somewhat more favourable, 1855 showing 581,551 tons against 798,887 in 1854, the amount of tonnage to Great Britain in each year being all but the same.

Exports.

33. Fortunately, indeed, a cure for the commercial depression was readily furnished by the progressive development of the natural wealth of the colony, stimulated as that progress was by an increasing population. The estimated value of articles exported rose from 11,775,204*l.* in 1854 to 13,493,338*l.* in 1855, the entire excess being a remittance to Great Britain in the shape of gold, the shipments thither being valued at 9,628,396*l.*, in lieu of 7,919,468*l.*, or an increase of about one million and three quarters sterling.

34. The total export of gold, as shown by these returns, gives the following comparison for the two years :—

	Quantity.			Value.
	ozs.	dwts.	grs.	£
1854 - - - - -	2,144,699	9	19	8,255,550
1855 - - - - -	2,751,535	8	16	10,904,150

or not quite so large an increase in value. The value of other exports was, in the aggregate, little altered,—wool, the most important of them, showing a decline, which must have arisen from a fall in price, as the shipments were very little smaller.

Agriculture.

35. There is, however, in the returns included under the next head a serious defalcation traceable in the number of sheep, which, whether it be attributable to increased consumption of meat, the ravages of disease, or the discouragement of the pastoral interest, must, ere long, tell on the production of the above-named staple.

In 1854 the return gave 5,332,007 sheep.
„ 1855 - - only 4,577,872 „

The number of cattle on the other hand had increased from 481,640 to 534,113.

36. Agriculture itself seems advancing with rapid strides, the number of acres of land under crop having risen from 54,905 to 115,135 ; the increase of wheat cultivation being in even a greater ratio, from 12,827 acres in 1854, to 42,686 acres in the year ending 31st March 1856, up to which period a very interesting and elaborate summary is appended.

Grants of Land.

37. The tendency of the population to an agricultural life, in spite of all the attractions of the gold fields, is still more strongly proved by the large quantities of crown lands which continue to be purchased as fast as put up to sale. Though the receipts into the Treasury from this source were, as already mentioned, smaller than in the previous year; this arose solely from the increased value of money, for 437,570 acres were disposed of in 1855 as against 405,679 in 1854. The prices realized were considerably below the average of 3*l.* 8*s.* 9¼*d.* per acre, obtained in the latter; 2*l.* 13*s.* 2*d.* having been, as will be perceived, the highest rate per acre in 1855.

Manufactures, Mines, &c.

38. In other branches of industry, notwithstanding monetary difficulties, amazing activity is perceptible. Steam mills for grinding corn, sawing wood, &c., were established in all directions; breweries, soap and candle factories, sprung up in most of the towns; and not a few of the trades which minister to luxury took their origin. But it is at the gold diggings, as might be expected, that the chief progress is manifest, the substitution of machinery for manual power appearing to have been set about in earnest, as evidenced by the mention of 159 quartz crushing machines.

39. The universal opinion here seems to be, that by means of improvements of this kind the production of gold will be permanently kept at its present level, but it is satisfactory at all events to find that advantage is being taken of existing facilities to introduce population and open up the country as rapidly as possible for settlement.

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40. I have already trespassed at so much length on your time, that I must defer further remarks to a future opportunity, adding merely, with reference to the only point of interest in the Blue Book on which I have not touched,—the extent of crime, that the returns as to the gaols, though carefully filled up for each separate establishment, afford little clue to one so recently arrived in the colony as myself to its criminal statistics.

Gaols & Prisoners.

I have, &c.

Right Hon. H. Labouchere, M.P., &c. &c.

(Signed) HENRY BARKLY.

(No. 125.)

Government Offices, Melbourne, 18th December 1857.

(Received 16th March 1858.)

SIR,

I REGRET that with every effort on my part to expedite the completion of the Blue Book for 1856, it has proved impossible to collect the returns from the different departments till nearly as late as in former years; but being assured that they will be delivered to me in a complete form in time to admit of their being forwarded by the next mail, I proceed to prepare the usual commentary on their contents, premising that my comments are not in most cases founded on personal observation, as I only arrived in the colony a week before the close of the year in question.

2. From the importance, however, conferred on Victoria during the last five years by its large export of gold, and the comparative ignorance which still is manifested in the mother country respecting its geographical position, social condition, and natural resources, it may perhaps be desirable for me to refer more freely as occasion offers to the first impressions made on my mind by the general aspect of things, and to draw your attention more continually than I should otherwise do to the extraordinary progress made in every respect since the "Port Phillip District" ceased, on the 1st July 1851, to form a portion of the colony of New South Wales.

3. The Blue Book returns may be resolved naturally into four groups, as they relate to the financial, the political, the social, or the industrial position of the colony; and it may prevent repetitions if I institute a comparison between its past and present state in each of these respects, when I come to the first heading pertaining to each group.

Financial.

4. In regard to finance, nothing can be more startling than the contrast displayed between the Victoria of 1851 and of 1856.

The gross revenue and expenditure in each year of the period were as under:—

	Revenue.	Expenditure.
1851	£ 499,041	£ 410,864
1852	1,635,494	981,565
1853	3,271,710	3,249,491
1854	3,275,497	4,554,735
1855	3,342,633	2,830,112
1856	3,369,251	2,799,152

or, to sum up the result more exactly in the shape of an account current, as done in a parliamentary paper enclosed, the total ordinary revenue received between 1st July 1851 and 31st December 1856 was 13,815,610*l.*, the total ordinary expenditure 13,370,296*l.*, leaving, after crediting a repayment from the New South Wales treasury, and a trifling surplus on account of special revenue, a cash balance in hand on 31st December 1856 of 584,480*l.*

5. It may be inferred from these figures that after the development of the gold discovery, the revenue and expenditure have settled down at about three millions per annum, or sixfold what they amounted to at the time of separation. Population has as yet increased to a nearly similar extent; and large as is the average taxation per head, it must be assigned in fairness to this progressive augmentation of numbers and wealth, for the tariff of import duties, which constitutes the bulk of the revenue, was materially reduced directly after separation, and still remains lower, affecting moreover only seven articles, which, though generally consumed, must be termed luxuries, and not necessaries of life.

6. Independently, indeed, of the fictitious appearance of extravagance which the high money value of labour gives to both sides of the account, there is another point requiring to be borne in mind since the land fund receipts

and disbursements have become blended with the General Revenue, namely, that the large sums sunk in public works and buildings and in roads and bridges, constituting fully a third of the aggregate expended, have been derived not from taxes but from the sale of land, and would be more correctly charged to "Capital Account."

7. In 1851 there was not a mile of macadamized road, and but 21 bridges of any kind in Victoria; at the end of 1856, as shown by a return enclosed, nearly 350 miles with 250 bridges were completed or in progress, at a cost of upwards of two millions sterling. The outlay on public buildings in the same period has exceeded a million and a half.

8. Up to 1856 the government had not been authorized to incur any expenditure for railway construction beyond a small sum paid to the Mount Alexander Company, but this did not arise from insensibility to the importance of rapid intercommunication, for the electric telegraph had been commenced alongside of all the main highways, and I found it on my arrival at work between Melbourne and the Heads of Port Phillip, viâ Williamstown and Geelong, a distance of 75 miles, branching from Geelong to Ballarat, 60 miles further, and from Melbourn to Sandhurst, viâ Castlemain, 100 miles in a northerly direction. During the present year it has been completed to the other gold fields, the total length of wire finished or in progress being nearly 800 miles.

9. In addition to public works thus accomplished out of the revenue of the colony, others of great importance have been prosecuted by means of borrowed capital, either under governmental control or by the various municipal authorities which have been created, the legislature contributing most liberal aid by grant, loan, or guarantee of interest. Of these the most remarkable are the Yan-Yean waterworks for the supply of Melbourne and its suburbs, an undertaking commenced four years since on a scale which would do honour to any age or any country, and which I hope to have the pleasure of bringing to a successful completion, by turning on the first jet before the year terminates. The water is accumulated in a reservoir formed by throwing an embankment, nearly three quarters of a mile in length, across the end of a valley, some 20 miles distant from the city, and 600 feet above its tidal level; a constant supply, independent of the natural rain fall, being secured by a conduit from the river Plenty, tunnelled for a quarter of a mile of its course through the surrounding hills. From the artificial lake thus formed, which already contains 7,000,000,000 gallons, or a seven years' supply for the entire population within its reach, iron tubes are laid down, which on reaching the city branch off through its streets, 45 miles of mains being laid down, and 30 miles more being prepared for the suburbs, the pressure of course being so great that the water will rise to the tops of the highest houses, though it is brought within safe bounds by an ingenious application of reducing valves, the invention of the engineer, Mr. Jackson.

10. Other undertakings of a similar kind, but on a smaller scale of course, are in progress in some of the more remote municipal districts, the number of which invaluable organizations is, I am happy to say, constantly increasing, under the provisions of the Act 18 Vict. No. 15, by which the governor in council is authorized to proclaim any area, not exceeding nine square miles, a municipality on the unopposed petition of 150 householders.

11. The Blue Book return enumerates 15 municipalities as existing in 1856, but beyond that states merely the amount of rate struck in each, which varies from 6*d.* to 1*s.* 6*d.* in the pound; nor does a parliamentary paper sent herewith give precise information as to the amount collected and expended in the majority of instances. In the present year two new municipalities being added, I learn from the Registrar General that the total valuation of rateable property is close upon two millions and a half sterling, whereof Melbourne and its suburbs constitutes more than half, viz., 1,364,894*l.*, Geelong 276,718*l.*, and the Gold Fields Towns 633,742*l.*, the balance being made up by the smaller seaports.

12. Some idea of the rapid development of the material prosperity of Victoria by means of its golden treasure being thus given, it only remains to make a few observations on the revenue returns of 1856 in particular, before dismissing the financial portion of my subject. It proved an eminently prosperous year to the colony in every respect, and by keeping the expenditure at the more moderate scale adopted after the crisis produced by the lavish outlay

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of 1854, the government was able without difficulty to complete the restoration of a sound state of finance.

13. The ordinary revenue amounted to 2,938,202*l.*, but with arrears of 1855, and cash in hand from that year, was 3,343,797*l.*

The total credits being brought by imprests adjusted, and receipts on special accounts to no less than - -	£4,065,607
The ordinary expenditure of 2,838,526*l.* being in like manner augmented by votes transferred and special debits to -	3,481,127
Leaving a balance, as already stated, of - - -	£584,480

at credit of the colony in the various banks on 31st December 1856.

14. The military expenditure defrayed by the colonial treasury, as set forth in a separate return in the Blue Book, though still considerable, was upwards of thirty thousand pounds below that of 1855, exceeding, even after deduction of the cost of a mounted company of the 40th regiment employed on gold escort, a hundred thousand pounds. The profuseness under this head in earlier days has, as you are aware, since been followed by a reaction, which has given rise to questions with the imperial government still remaining to be settled.

15. The political institutions of the infant colony have, it cannot be denied, fully kept pace with the rest of its wonderful progress; since it has passed from an electoral district in 1851, entitled to return six members to a legislative council meeting at Sydney six hundred miles off, through the intermediate stage of being governed by a legislative council partly nominee and partly elective, assembled under a Lieutenant Governor of its own, to the full dignity of a tripartite legislature, consisting of two representative chambers, convened in Her Majesty's name by a Governor-in-Chief, for the first time in November 1856.

16. Owing to the transition state of affairs little legislation of consequence took place during the last session of the old council, but there will be found in the list of 21 Acts appended to the Blue Book two of some interest, for regulating elections under the new constitution, the latter of them carried only after a fierce struggle, introducing vote by ballot.

17. Hitherto this system has worked quietly and well, in no instance I am informed having any disturbance occurred at a poll; and it is evidently well adapted for the state of society in this country. By a return transmitted it will be seen that at the general election the number registered to vote for the legislative council in virtue of an estate worth 100*l.* per annum, or as belonging to the learned professions, was over ten thousand, of whom about half availed themselves of their votes; and that the number qualified by possession of a 5*l.* freehold or 10*l.* leasehold to elect the members of the assembly exceeded in the aggregate sixty thousand, scarcely more than two fifths of whom came to the poll; eight, however, out of thirty elections being uncontested.

18. The list of the civil establishment calls for little remark on my part, as neither the colonial office nor the Queen's representative have any longer much influence in its composition or rate of remuneration. I enclose, however, an elaborate statement in regard to it recently laid before parliament, giving the names of those in the public service reduced in 1854 as well as the date of re-employment, and the number and cost of the civil establishment in that and each of the two following years, as it manifests a degree of constitutional jealousy on the subject, and a regard for the claims, irrespective of party influences, of those whose services were from no fault of their own dispensed with, which augurs satisfactorily for the future working of a system attended with many dangers. The general summary shows that in:—

			£
1854	an establishment of	1,136	cost 525,112
1855	„ „	955	„ 386,025
1856	„ „	949	„ 404,605

Social.

19. Beginning, with a view of estimating the advance of society, with the numerical increase of the population, I find that on the 2d March 1851 the Port Phillip District contained 77,345 inhabitants, of whom 23,143 were congregated in the city of Melbourne, 18,348 in the metropolitan county of

Bourke, 12,784 in the city of Geelong and surrounding county of Grant, leaving but 23,065 as occupying the rest of a territory equal in area to Great Britain and Ireland together. The census taken on the 29th March 1857 shows a truly surprising change, for in these six years the population had augmented nearly in arithmetical ratio to 410,766, Melbourne and its suburbs partaking so far of the increase as to number 89,023 inhabitants, and Geelong 23,338, whilst the newly-discovered gold fields had attracted not less than 166,550, and the rural districts, opened up in due proportion, had become peopled by 131,855.

20. The Blue Book return of population on 31st December 1856 does not of course supply these figures, the number being calculated on the basis of the last year's estimate, adding the excess of births over deaths registered, and the recorded arrivals of immigrants by sea, those overland from the adjacent colonies still continuing to escape notice. The incorrectness of the result may be inferred from the subsequent census, as instead of 348,460, the population at the close of 1856 cannot have fallen very far short of 400,000.

21. The vital statistics of the colony give on the whole satisfactory indications, but it is difficult to draw conclusions of much value from data collected during so short a period in regard to a population constantly augmented in so large a ratio by immigration from all parts of the world, and so anomalously constituted on that account with respect to the average age and the sex of its members.

22. It appears from a table published in Mr. Westgarth's statistics of Victoria, that the population of females in 1854 between the ages of 15 and 45 was as 56 to 47 of those between these ages in Great Britain, and it might be expected, therefore, that the births in the two countries would bear the same relation to their total population. Assuming, however, as the cipher of the population of 1856, the mean between the returns for the beginning and end of that year, say 334,000, which would probably not be far from the mark, allowing for the omission of the Chinese, who are all males, the 14,406 births registered would give a ratio of 1 in 23 for Victoria against 1 in 34 in England, an excess which, however striking, will probably be continued, as the marriages returned for the year were 4,116, or 1 in 80, whilst the English standard is not above 1 in 128.

23. The ratio of mortality compares less favourably, considering that the proportion of males in the prime of life is very much larger than at home, (60 : 35), for raising the cipher to 360,000, so as to include Chinese, the 5,732 deaths registered would be as 1 in 62, or not much below the present rate in England (1 in 51 in 1831). In this case the counteracting cause clearly is, the excessive mortality among children, one third of the deaths consisting, according to the Registrar General, of infants dying within 12 months of their birth. Fortunately a comparison of that officer's reports for the last four years shows that, notwithstanding the greater pains taken to ensure registration, fewer deaths in proportion to the population are recorded. His statement to 30th June :—

		Births.		Deaths.
1853–4	gives	4,499	-	5,826
1854–5	,,	10,210	-	6,572
1855–6	,,	12,779	-	5,760
1856–7	,,	15,937	-	6,521

24. The increase by recorded immigration during the year was 41,594 against 21,187 leaving the colony, so that the net addition from this source scarcely exceeded 20,000 souls ; and it would seem that the class now coming in is not quite equal to the earlier immigrants, as the Registrar General has to report an increasing proportion of " marks " affixed by parties married. Still the educational standard is far higher than at home, for only 13·5 per cent. of the males and 30·5 per cent. of the females were unable to write their names, whereas 31 per cent. and 46 per cent. are the proportions respectively in the mother country.

25. Very large sums continue to be devoted to the education of the rising generation, about 230,000*l.* having, as will be seen, been granted in 1856 by the State, supplemented by 50,000*l.* from private contributions. The outlay is no doubt unnecessarily augmented by the maintenance of two distinct and rival systems, the " Denominational " and the " National ;" but a bill is now before the legislature for uniting the two boards upon a compromise, and as it has

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passed its second reading in the Assembly by a very large majority, it seems probable that this fusion will eventually take place.

26. The number of children receiving instruction in national schools was 5,056, and in the schools of the various denominations 21,267, together 26,323, but the average attendance is seldom above two-thirds of the total on the roll, and as there must have been fully 35,000 children between the ages of 7 and 15, it can scarcely be deemed, notwithstanding the liberality of the grant, that education is making satisfactory progress.

27. The ecclesiastical return is very defective, no information being given as to the accommodation in, and attendance at, churches belonging to the Church of England. The places of worship belonging to all other religious denominations are said to have room for 67,912, and to be generally well filled; but this would seem to leave a large number unprovided for, as, according to the enclosed account of the distribution of the 50,000*l.* granted for public worship, there were in 1854 more than 87,000, besides the members of the Church of England, participating; and several sects, moreover, do not accept their proportion. Only half this amount is appropriated to the payment of stipends, the other moiety being expended in the erection of buildings, wherever an equivalent is offered to be raised by any congregation.

28. On the whole, though I fear the moral scarcely keeps pace with the material progress of the colony, a great deal has been accomplished; and though the number of criminals in proportion to the population is far larger than at home, great allowance must be made for the effect of the gold discoveries in drawing together convicts from the neighbouring colonies, and desperadoes from all parts of the world, and it is satisfactory to find that crime is under such circumstances diminishing. The greatest number in confinement at any one time in 1856 was 2,315, as against 2,538 in 1855, and at the close of the year 1,910 only remained, instead of 2,289.

29. There is certainly less excuse for crime in Victoria than in any other country, for though the demand for labour may be at some times slacker than at others, and there is no poor law for the unemployed to fall back on, the number of charitable institutions, immigrant aid societies, hospitals, benevolent asylums, &c. is, as will be seen from the accompaning list, very large, and they are everywhere most liberally supported both by the State and individual subscriptions. The number of friendly societies and other mutual benefit clubs is also increasing.

Industrial.

30. Commerce and agriculture were in a very healthy state throughout the entire year. The note circulation of the banks had attained its highest point in the history of the colony on 31st December 1856, when it exceeded two millions and a half sterling, and the amount of coin in circulation must have been very much beyond the Blue Book estimate of three millions, as close upon that amount was held at the same time by these institutions, in addition to more than half a million in bullion. The progress in the five years in the commercial transactions of the colony may be judged when I add that the circulation in July 1851 barely exceeded one hundred thousand pounds, and the coin held was only two hundred and seventy thousand.

31. The ratio of increase in the imports and exports was more extraordinary still, as the following figures will demonstrate. Value of—

	1851.	1856.
Imports -	056,437 - -	£14,962,269
Exports -	422,909 - -	£15,489,760

More than half the former in 1856 came direct from Great Britain, the United States sending less than a twelfth, foreign countries a sixteenth, and the remainder coming from British colonies, especially those in the vicinity.

32. Of the exports, Great Britain took nearly thirteen millions' worth, ten and a half in gold, and one and a half in wool, the rest consisting of specie and minor products. Nearly two thousand ships, measuring over half a million tons, entered inwards, and nearly as many outwards, but the particulars of their nationality, cargoes, &c., &c., are not specified in the way required in the shipping return.

33. The agricultural statistics on the contrary are most carefully compiled, and will be found to give interesting details of the extent of land cultivated in each district, and the nature and extent of the crop grown. Though at the time

of separation in its infancy, agriculture has latterly advanced with giant strides. The number of acres in crop was as under in—

1854 - -	54,905
1855 - -	115,135
1856 - -	179,983

And though the system pursued is distinguished by much of that wastefulness and imperfection which are incidental to a new country embracing a vast extent of virgin soil, yet possessing small command of labour, it can hardly be said that farming is either in a backward or a neglected state.

34. Little attention, for instance, is paid to a due rotation of crops or to manuring, from the first of the above causes, whilst from the second the land is in many cases not properly prepared nor weeded afterwards; but though high cultivation is held, from the dearness of labour, to be unprofitable, there are few countries where implemental husbandry is more followed, the best English and American machines for mowing, reaping, threshing and stacking not only being in common use, but others of colonial manufacture, which do their work even more successfully.

35. The yield per acre under such a system is higher than might be expected, and tends to prove that the land generally is of superior fertility. The crop of 1856–7 was not a heavy one, and the average produce of wheat throughout the colony was only about 24 bushels to the acre, but in the more favourable season of 1855 it exceeded 30 bushels, and the crops in the county of Talbot, near the principal gold fields, averaged,—$33\frac{2}{3}$ bushels, wheat; 46 bushels, oats; $6\frac{1}{4}$ tons, potatoes; 2 tons, hay, which would be good yielding in any part of the world. The rich volcanic soil arising from the decomposition of the trap rocks is not, I imagine, to be surpassed in fertility, and I have seen a crop of potatoes on some of it which turned out 15 tons to the acre.

36. So far from this land being, as alleged, locked up from the public, sales during 1856 went on as briskly as in the previous year, the same quantity, 437,000 acres, being disposed of at an average of 1*l.* 14*s.* 3*d.* per acre. Nor, as the truth ought to be published on this much-debated question, can it be fairly stated that this large area went to swell the acquisitions of the Squatters under their pre-emptive right, or the speculative purchases of large capitalists; for 6837 sales, comprising 135,496 acres, were effected in lots of less than a hundred acres; and 1294 sales, comprising 286,481 acres, in lots under five hundred; 33,585 acres only being sold in lots beyond the latter size.

37. Were I to pursue this important subject further, I might perhaps be able to throw some light upon a social problem which still remains for solution; but I have already trespassed at so much length upon your time, that I must defer my remarks to a future opportunity, and here conclude my very satisfactory task so far as the Blue Book of 1856 is concerned.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. H. Labouchere, &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) HENRY BARKLY.

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No. 32.

Copy of DESPATCH from Governor Sir H. E. F. Young to the Right Honourable H. Labouchere, M.P.

(No. 81.)

Government House, Hobarton,
July 9, 1857.
(Received September 25, 1857.)

Sir,

I have the honour to transmit the Blue Book for the year 1856.

The Population was ascertained, by a census taken on the 31st March 1857, to be 81,492, of whom 45,916 are males and 34,886 females; of these, 9,196 males and 9,062 females were inhabitants of Hobart Town, and 4,051 males and 3,823 females of Launceston.

Included in the above total population there are 690 of the military and their families.

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The total births registered in 1856 were 2,956; the deaths 1,338; the marriages 933.

The Immigrants at the public cost in 1856 were 1,049. The expenditure for immigration was 14,652*l.* 15*s.* 6*d.* The immigrants in 1856 paying their own passages amounted to 3,939.

The Emigrants from the colony were 6,693. The excess of emigration over immigration was 1,705.

Price of Provisions and Labour.

Bread, 11*d.* the quartern loaf.
Meat, 6½*d.* per pound.
Butter, 2*s.* 4*d.* per pound.
Wheat, 13*s.* per bushel.
Domestic labour, 25*l.* to 30*l.* per annum, with board and lodging.
Prædial, the same rates.
Tradesmen, 10*s.* per diem.

The Revenue for the year 1856 was 415,913*l.* It included 25,787*l.* from sales and 25,477*l.* from leases of Crown lands; also 100,000*l.* repaid to the revenue by the Board of Immigration by the sale of debentures under the Act of Council, No. 18. of 19 Vict.

In July 1855 the necessity of an augmented tariff, in order to procure an increase of revenue amounting to 74,589*l.*, was represented to the then existing legislature, and at its subsequent session in November of the same year an addition to the public revenue was again represented to be urgent.

In December 1856 parliament was informed that even for the reduced expenditure the existing sources of revenue were not adequate, and the first responsible ministry submitted measures for obtaining an increased amount by additional duties of customs, and by bills to increase the rates of postage; to increase the dog tax; to raise 80,000*l.* by debentures for the service of 1856; to levy duties on property sold by auction; to levy duty upon property of deceased persons; to levy duties upon transfer of real property and shares in public companies; and to levy additional duties upon licences to exercise certain trades.

Against additional taxation, however, without a previous resort to further reduction of expenditure, the petitions to parliament were so general that all the above Bills were withdrawn, except the Debenture Bill and Dog Tax Bill, which became Acts; and the proposed increased duties of customs were not levied, but the rates of the existing tariff were continued, and are about one half of the abandoned rates; viz.

[Collected under Act of Council, 15th Victoria, No. 5.]

Table of Goods, Wares, and Merchandise liable to Duty on Importation.

Articles.	By Weight, Tale, or Measure.	Rates of Duty. £	s.	d.
Brandy	Per Gallon	0	12	0
Rum and all other Spirits and Strong Waters	Ditto, and so in proportion with respect only to Spirits and Strong Waters in bottle, for any greater or less quantity than a gallon, not being less than one eighth part of a gallon	0	9	0
Wines in Wood	Ditto	0	1	0
Ditto in Bottle	Per dozen reputed Quart Bottles	0	4	0
Ditto	Ditto Pint Bottles	0	2	0
Tobacco (Snuff excepted) and Cigars	Per lb.	0	2	0
Tea	Ditto	0	0	3
Raw Sugar or Molasses	Per Cwt.	0	3	0
Refined Sugar	Ditto	0	6	0
Coffee	Per lb.	0	0	1½
Dried Fruits	Ditto	0	0	1
Hops	Ditto	0	0	2
Malt Liquors in Wood	Per Gallon	0	0	2
Ditto in Bottle	Per dozen reputed Quart Bottles	0	1	0
Ditto	Ditto Pint Bottles	0	0	6

TABLE of ARTICLES exempted from PAYMENT of DUTY on IMPORTATION.

Wines imported or purchased in Bond for the use of Regimental Messes.
All Articles imported for the supply of Her Majesty's Land or Sea Forces.
All Articles imported for the Use of Her Majesty's Government.

The Expenditure of 1856 was 439,708*l.* This amount includes 43,253*l.* for roads and bridges, and aids to local assessments for rural road trusts; 16,466*l.* for the judicial departments; 17,937*l.* for religious worship; 13,458*l.* for education; 10,341*l.* for conveyance of inland mails; 15,307*l.* for the survey department; and 37,149*l.* for works and buildings.

Agriculture.—The rain fall in Hobart Town in 1856 was 22·89 inches; the maximum of the barometer 30·325, the minimum 28·813, the mean 29·696; the maximum of the thermometer 94°, the minimum 30°, the mean 55·88°.

The number of acres under crop in 1856 is estimated at 185,556, of which 65,731 were in wheat; the live stock comprised 18,019 horses, 88,608 horned cattle, 1,674,987 sheep, and 30,074 pigs.

The Waste Lands sold in 1856 consisted of 10,618 acres at an average price, at public auction, of 1*l.* 0*s.* 10¾*d.* per acre, and 3,954 acres of township allotments averaged 4*l.* 0*s.* 8¼*d.* per acre. The lands under licence of occupancy for pastoral purposes are 2,009,477 acres. 291,522 acres are also held under a pre-emptive right of purchase at 1*l.* per acre.

Exports and Imports.

The Exports are valued at 1,207,802*l.* Of these the different kinds of grain are reckoned at 142,980*l.*; hops 10,317*l.*; timber 112,339*l.*; wool 319,961*l.*; horses 37,325*l.*

The Imports are valued at 1,442,106*l.* Of these 812,745*l.* came from Great Britain.

The Tonnage inwards was 157,826 tons, with 11,437 men and 934 vessels, of which 178 were in ballast.

The Tonnage outwards was about the same; the vessels were 945, of which 168 were in ballast.

The number of Steam Vessels registered in 1856 was 15, of a total tonnage of 3,310 tons and horse-power 846.

There are six Lighthouses, maintained at a cost of 3,929*l.*; the dues collected amounted to 5,514*l.*

The Insolvencies in 1856 were 88 in number; the liabilities 172,432*l.*; the assets 67,915*l.*

The Post Offices and receiving houses are 97 in number; the persons employed 124; the extent of post roads 870 miles; the letters despatched to Great Britain 43,984, and the newspapers 57,546; the letters received from Great Britain 43,064; the newspapers 159,174. The local rates of postage are fourpence for inland letters not exceeding one ounce weight, and sixpence not exceeding half an ounce for sea-borne letters. The book postage is sixpence not exceeding four ounces. The rates are prepaid.

The Schools aided by Government are 70 in number; the average attendance in 1856 was 2628 scholars.

Water and Gas.

The greater number of houses in Hobarton have water laid on to them. In Launceston waterworks are in progress for the supply of the town. A considerable portion of Hobarton is now lighted with gas. The works belong to a private company.

Aborigines.

The small remnant of this race, five females and eleven males, of whom my Despatch No. 166. of November 1855 gave an account, continue as then reported to reside at Oyster Cove in D'Entrecasteaux Channel, supported by the Government, under the care of a married resident superintendent, and with occasional visits from the clergyman and magistrate of the district. I annex a vocabulary* of the dialects of the aboriginal tribes, together with some aboriginal names of places in Tasmania.

* Being very voluminous is not printed.

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The vocabulary was drawn up by Mr. Joseph Milligan, F. L. S., and is printed as a parliamentary paper.

General Observations.

In addition to the statistical matter comprised in the Blue Book of 1856, and to the information which has been herein previously set forth in notes under several specific heads, it is desirable to advert to some exceedingly important and valuable natural resources of Tasmania, on the due development of which its capabilities for population and prosperity would be almost incalculably increased. I allude at present to its water supplies. The expediency of entering upon a comprehensive scheme of irrigation occurred to the local Government, and was reported on in 1843 by deputy surveyor-general Major H. C. Cotton, who had been employed in India on works of this description, as an officer of engineers in the Madras presidency. In 1843 there was convict labour at the Imperial Government colonial depôts, without private demand for its services, and this supply was so rapidly increasing that in 1844 the Lieutenant Governor feared that unless profitable employment could be found for the convicts they would become either paupers on the British Treasury or plunderers of the colonists. A staff of surveyors, under the deputy surveyor-general, was accordingly employed to examine into the practicability of the work, and in April 1845 that officer completed the survey and report of two irrigation projects, and recommended them as the first to be entered on by the local Government; but in May 1845 the irrigation department was discontinued.

In 1846 the Lieutenant Governor represented to the then Secretary of State the inability of the colonial revenue to meet the expense of works of irrigation, and again urged that they should be authorized to be constructed by the British Government with convict labour, as a means of financial economy to the British Treasury, affording employment to numerous prisoners remaining unhired on the hands of the convict department, enhancing the value of the waste Crown lands, and accomplishing a work of acknowledged public utility. It is difficult to estimate with anything approaching to accuracy the loss which the agricultural and wool-producing interests of Tasmania have sustained by the non-execution of a comprehensive scheme of irrigation, at a time when labour was abundant, cheap, and capable of steady and continuous application under convict discipline, a loss unavoidably increased by the subsequent abeyance of the work, which was caused by the supply of labour being unable to be spared for such projects of late years, although the additional products of the land when developed by irrigation would have found so remunerative a market in the adjacent gold colony. Soon after my arrival in the colony, the natural capabilities of the island for irrigation induced me to collect together the correspondence which had taken place in 1843–6, as contained in the enclosed pamphlet*, and it was printed and distributed in 1855 among the chief landed proprietors of the midland districts, whose properties could be the earliest benefited by irrigation.

From them came a resolution unanimously adopted at a public meeting, of their readiness to entertain favourably any scheme having for its principle, as I suggested, the effecting of the object, on a re-productive and self-supporting plan.

The moment was not, however, favourable for the formation of a local joint stock company, nor for using the credit of the colony to procure a loan for the undertaking by the Government as a public work. The then legislature was about to be displaced by a new constitution and parliament; and the first responsible ministry deemed it inexpedient at that time to add the cost of the work to the loans contemplated by the recent Public Works Loans Act; and the political changes of ministry which have since occurred have precluded that attention to the subject which it eminently deserves.

A memorandum left in Tasmania by Sir William Denison, containing the heads of a General Irrigation Act, will I trust, with alterations, be submitted to the colonial parliament in the shape of a bill.

I proceed now, from information supplied to me by Major Cotton and by Mr. Spreut, of the Survey Office, to give a general but necessarily inadequate

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* Being very voluminous is not printed.

sketch of the natural and very peculiar adaptation of Tasmania for an extensive scheme of irrigation.

The numerous rivers of the island, with few exceptions, take their rise in elevated lakes or lagoons; many of them never cease to flow; others cease to flow only in a long drought; others, again, of an inferior class, are always dry or nearly so in summer, but could be made to flow throughout the year by storing up and regulating the surplus water of the rainy season, to be drawn off in summer from reservoirs at or near their sources.

The rivers which never cease to flow are, among others, the Derwent, the Florentine, the Dee, the Huon, the Gordon, the North and South Esk, the Meander, the Ringarooma, and other streams falling to the north and west coasts.

The Derwent has a course of about 120 miles in length to Hobart Town.

The Florentine, 35 miles to its confluence with the Derwent.

The Dee, 30 miles to its junction with the Derwent.

The Huon, 100 miles to D'Entrecasteaux Channel.

The Gordon, 90 miles to Macquarie Harbour.

The North Esk, 60 miles to the River Tamar.

The South Esk, 110 miles to the Tamar.

Of the rivers which in long drought cease to flow, I specify the Ouse, 60 miles to its confluence with the Derwent; the Clyde, 50 miles to the Derwent; the Shannon, 40 miles to its junction with the Ouse; the Macquarie, 70 miles to its confluence with the Lake River; the Elizabeth, 30 miles to the Macquarie; and the Lake River, 30 miles to its junction with the South Esk.

Of the inferior rivers, always or nearly always dry in summer, but which could be made to flow throughout the year, there is the Jordan, 50 miles course to the Derwent, the Blackman, 20 miles course to the Macquarie, and the Coal River, 25 miles to Pittwater.

The principal lakes are to the westward of the main road connecting Hobart Town and Launceston. They are lakes Sorell and Crescent, the Arthurs, the Great Lake, Lake Echo, and Lake St. Clair; and this region is subject to heavy falls of snow.

To the eastward of the main road are Lake Tiberias, Dulverton Lake, and Tooms Lake.

In the western country beyond the Derwent River, in the direction of Port Davey and Macquarie Harbour, there are Lake Pedder and Lake Richmond.

Lake Sorell, about three thousand feet above the sea level, is the source of the River Clyde, and contains about twenty thousand acres, and with Lake Crescent is situate in the county of Somerset, but the waters take the direction of the counties Monmouth and Cumberland.

Arthurs Lakes, at a level of three thousand four hundred feet, the source of the Lake River, with several smaller lakes, are situated in the county of Westmoreland. The waters flow on the boundaries of that county and of Somerset. The lakes cover fifteen thousand acres.

The Great Lake, at a level of four thousand feet, at the source of the River Shannon, is also in Westmoreland. The water flows through it and Cumberland, and joins the River Derwent. It covers fifty thousand acres.

Lake Echo, at a level of three thousand feet, covers perhaps five thousand acres, and is the source of the River Dee, which joins the Derwent.

Lake St. Clair, at a level of three thousand five hundred feet, covers ten thousand acres in the county Lincoln, and is the main source of the River Derwent.

Minor lakes or lagoons exist at the head of the River Ouse and Nive.

Lake Pedder, at a level of about two thousand feet, covers two thousand five hundred acres, and gives rise to the Serpentine, a tributary of the River Gordon.

Lake Richmond, at a level of three thousand feet, is a small but deep pool at the head of the River Gordon.

Lake Tiberias, at a level of one thousand three hundred feet, is the source of the River Jordan.

Dulverton Lake is the source of the rivulet of that name which joins the Jordan.

TASMANIA.

Tooms Lake and Long Marsh, at a level of fifteen thousand feet, are the sources of the southern branch of the River Macquarie, and give it a summer supply of water.

Kierney's Bogs, at a level of eighteen hundred feet, form an extensive flat of natural basins, and are the sources of the Elizabeth River, which passes through Campbell Town, on the main line of road.

These lakes are nearly all so formed that they may be made to retain a body of water above the level of the natural outlet.

The works commenced by Major Cotton in 1844, but never completed, were intended to spread water in artificial channels over the lands bordering on the Macquarie and Elizabeth rivers, from reservoirs draining one hundred and eighty square miles of surface, calculated to contain ninety million cubic yards of water, with channels to carry it to thirty thousand acres, and otherwise to benefit the townships of Tunbridge, Ross, and Campbell Town.

Most extensive tracts of land, well calculated for great irrigation plans, extend along the Macquarie River below the scheme last mentioned, along the Lake River, over the wide Norfolk plains and town of Longford; whilst those plains through which the South Esk flows, from above Fingal to Perth, afford facilities at least equal to those of the Upper Macquarie.

The northern branch of the Macquarie discharges at times an immense amount of water, and causes great loss of property in its lower parts; the same inconveniences are caused by the South Esk.

The north-west coast of the island, from Port Sorell to Circular Head, is watered by numerous rivers. Of these I specify the Mersey, the Don, the Forth, the Leven, the Inglis. One of the most important branches of the Mersey flows from a minor lake or lagoon.

In the south-western part of the island, crossing the Derwent at Dunrobin Bridge, there are the Broad, the Repulse, and the before-mentioned Florentine and Gordon rivers, and lakes Pedder and Richmond.

It is reckoned that not less than two hundred thousand acres could be made available for agriculture by drainage and irrigation in this district.

I enclose a tracing which indicates the relative position of the lakes of Tasmania.

I cannot but hope that a comprehensive plan of irrigation for the practical development of the great water resources of Tasmania will ere long be entered on, either by the private enterprise of a company, or by the authority of the local parliament. The undertaking appears to be justified by the success and profit of similar public works in India. A recent English paper reports, that "the last thirteen public works for irrigation executed in Madras by the Indian "Government have returned a profit of one hundred and thirty-four per cent."

Legislation.

Under the title of Legislative Council, the legislature which preceded the new constitution and its parliament had two sessions of 1855. The 1st met on the 17th July, and was ended on the 18th September by prorogation. The second re-assembled on the 28th November 1855, and was closed on the 7th February 1856.

The Acts passed in these sessions were numbered from No. 1. to No. 28., and there were five unnumbered Private Acts.

I subjoin the titles of all.

No. 1. Prisons Regulation Act.
No. 2. Criminals Execution Act.
No. 3. Punishment in lieu of Transportation Act.
No. 4. Post Office Act Amendment.
No. 5. Petty Larceny Act.
No. 6. Offenders Control Act.
No. 7. Jury Amendment Act.
No. 8. Magistrates Summary Procedure Act.
No. 9. Magistrates Criminal Procedure Act.
No. 10. Appeals Regulation Act.
No. 11. Magistrates Protection Act.
No. 12. Launceston Water Act.
No. 13. Cab Act.
No. 14. Bathurst Street, Launceston, Act.

THE LAKE COUNTRY.

Reduced from the

TRIG^{L} PLAN OF TASMANIA.

R. Mersey
Meander R.
DELORAINE
WESTBURY
Lobster Riv^{t}
Dairy Riv^{t}
South Esk
LONGFORD
R. Mersey
Fishers R.
Meander R.
Lake R.
Fish R.
Macquarie R.
LINCOLN
Ninetee Lagoons
Split Rock
GREAT LAKE
Lake R.
R. Isis
CAMPBELL TOWN
Elizabeth R.
Macquarie R.
ARTHUR'S LAKES
LAKE St CLAIR
Nive R.
Pine R.
Lit. Pine R.
R. Ouse
R. Shannon
Upper Lake R.
ROSS
L. LAY COCKS
L. SORELL
R. Blackman
TUNBRIDGE
MARLBOROUGH
LAKE ECHO
R. Derwent
Nive R.
L. CRESCENT
Exe Riv^{t}
OATLANDS
Dulverton Riv^{t}
Dulverton Lagoon
R. Dee
BOTHWELL
Clyde R.
Jordan R.
L. TIBERIAS
L. Richmond
R. Florentine
Derwent
R. Ouse
River
Dunrobbin Bridge
HAMILTON
R. Gordon
Mt Dawson's Road
S. by E. to L. Peddes about 25 miles.

Scale of English Miles.

10 5 0 10 20 Miles

J. Arrowsmith, Litho. 1857.

No. 15. Offences Prevention and Punishment Act.
No. 16. Common Law Procedure Act, No. 2.
No. 17. Name of Colony Act.
No. 18. Immigration Commissioners Act.
No. 19. Appropriation of Revenue Supplementary for 1855 Act.
No. 20. Ship Post Act.
No. 21. Shipping Masters Act.
No. 22. Gaols Continuation Act.
No. 23. Supreme Court Act.
No. 24. Electoral Act.
No. 25. Appropriation of Revenue for 1856 Act.
No. 26. Friendly Societies Act.
No. 27. Licensing Act Amendment.
No. 28. Masters and Servants Act Amendment.

PRIVATE ACTS.

Douglas River Coal Com p Act.
Piper River Railway Act.
Launceston Steam Navigation Act.
Northern Tasmania Steam Navigation Act.
Launceston Insurance Company Act.

On the 2d December 1856, commissioners, under appointment from the Governor, opened the parliament of Tasmania, the members of the House of Assembly attending at the bar of the Legislative Council; and the respective houses having severally elected a president and speaker, the Governor declared in person, in a speech, the following day, the purposes for which the parliament had been assembled.

The business of the first session of the parliament was ended on the 5th June 1857, and prorogation took place on that day.

The Acts of parliament numbered from No. 1. to No. 29., and two Private Acts unnumbered, bear the following titles:—

No. 1. Launceston Building Act Amendment.
No. 2. Cross and Bye Roads Act Amendment.
No. 3. Electoral Act Amendment.
No. 4. Electoral Rolls Continuation Act.
No. 5. Court of Requests Jurisdiction Act.
No. 6. Judge of Supreme Court President Act.
No. 7. Judges' Independence Act.
No. 8. Registrar of Births Appointment Act.
No. 9. 80,000*l.* Debentures Act.
No. 10. Launceston Loan Guarantee Act.
No. 11. Census Act Amendment.
No. 12. Insolvent Act Amendment.
No. 13. Ordinance Officers' Powers Transfer Act.
No. 14. Friendly Societies Act Permanent Act.
No. 15. Customs Officers Indemnity Act.
No. 16. Port Act, 1857.
No. 17. Banker's Drafts Act.
No. 18. Revenue Appropriation for Part of 1857 Act.
No. 19. 24,000*l.* Debentures Act.
No. 20. Public Works Loans Act.
No. 21. Supplementary Revenue Appropriation for 1856 Act.
No. 22. Electric Telegraphs Act.
No. 23. Chief Police Magistrate's Duties Transference Act.
No. 24. Testimony Perpetuating Act.
No. 25. Bills of Lading Act.
No. 26. Stipendiary Magistrates' Jurisdiction Abolition Act.
No. 27. Penalties Distribution Act.
No. 28. Jury Act Amendment.
No. 29. Settled Estates Leases and Sales Act.

PRIVATE ACTS.

Hobart Town Gas Company Act Amendment.
Ilfracombe Saw Mills and Railway Company Act.

TASMANIA.

The first responsible ministry of Tasmania resigned office in February. Their successors resigned in April, when the present ministry took office.

The first ministry comprised Messieurs Champ, colonial secretary, member of the House of Assembly for Launceston; Francis Smith, attorney-general, member of the House of Assembly for Hobart Town; J. W. Rogers, solicitor-general, member of the House of Assembly for Launceston; T. D. Chapman, colonial treasurer, member of the House of Assembly for Hobart Town; and W. Nairn, member of the Legislative Council without office.

The second ministry included Mr. Thomas G. Gregson, colonial secretary, member of the House of Assembly for Richmond; Mr. J. C. Gregson, attorney-general, member of the House of Assembly for Longford; Mr. Charles Meredith, colonial treasurer, member of the House of Assembly for Glamorgan; Mr. Maxwell Miller, member of the House of Assembly for Hobart Town, without office; Mr. J. H. Wedge, member of the Legislative Council for Morven, without office; Mr. James Whyte, member of the Legislative Council for Pembroke, without office.

The third ministry includes Mr. W. P. Weston, member of the Legislative Council for Longford, premier without office; Mr. William Henty, colonial secretary, member of the Legislative Council for the Tamar, Mr. Francis Smith, attorney-general, member of the House of Assembly for Fingal; Mr. Thomas John Knight, solicitor-general (not re-elected member of the Legislative Council for the Huon); Mr. F. M. Innes, colonial treasurer, member of the House of Assembly for Morven; Mr. R. G. Kermode, member of the House of Assembly for Ringwood, without office; and Mr. John Walker, member of the Legislative Council for Hobart Town, without office.

The House of Assembly consists of thirty members, returned by twenty-four electoral districts; the Legislative Council of fifteen members, returned by twelve electoral districts.

The qualification of a voter for a member of the House of Assembly is a freehold of 100*l.*, a household of 10*l.* per annum, or leasehold of three years of 10*l.* per annum, or salary of 100*l.* per annum, or graduate of university, or barrister, or solicitor, or minister of religion, or officer, or retired officer of army or navy, resident in the district of the vote for 12 months prior to writ for election. The qualification of a voter for the Legislative Council is freehold estate of annual value of 50*l.*, or graduate of university, barrister, solicitor, medical practitioner, minister of religion, officer, naval or military, or retired from service, and resident as in the former case. There is no property qualification required of a member of either house.

The Legislative Councillors determine by lot the order in which they are to stand on the roll. At the expiry of three years five members being the first on roll retire, to be replaced by five new members, and five others retire every succeeding three years in the same order, to be replaced by new members. The members of the Assembly are elected for five years.

Both houses of parliament are elected by ballot, and there are enactments defining and punishing "bribery," "treating," "undue influence," and "refreshment of meat, drink, or entertainment or money," to voters on day of nomination or polling.

Candidates and agents may make necessary payments before day of election. Account thereof to be made by election auditor.

On the day of nomination, if there be only the same number of candidates proposed as there are vacancies, the returning officer shall declare such to be duly elected, and make his return accordingly. If a poll be demanded by not less than six electors, it shall take place at the polling places on the day appointed in the writ, not being less than four or more than six days from the nomination.

The following are the ballot papers to be used at election of members for the Legislative Council and House of Assembly respectively.

(*Queen's Arms.*)

BALLOT PAPER to be used at the ELECTION of a MEMBER of the LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Directions for use.

The voter is to take this paper into the inner room, and there immediately to strike through in ink the names of the candidates for whom he does not intend to vote. But he must be careful, if only one member is to be returned for the district, not to leave

more than the name of one candidate not struck through; and if there be more than one member to be returned for such district, he does not leave the names of more candidates not struck out than there are members to be returned for such electoral district.

☞ N.B.—*If this direction be not attended to the ballot paper will be invalid.*

The voter must not take this paper out of the room in which he receives it, excepting into the inner room, where he is entitled to strike through the candidates' names in secrecy; and neither the returning officer nor other person is entitled to approach him whilst he is so striking through the candidates' names. Immediately the candidates' names are struck through, the voter is to put this paper into the ballot-box, and whilst he is so doing no person is to approach him.

Any voter guilty of unnecessary delay in filling up this ballot-paper will be subject to the penalties of a misdemeanor.

Clerk of the Peace.

Returning Officer for the Electoral District of

[*Here the candidates' names will be written or printed in alphabetical order, and numbered in figures in regular succession.*]

(Queen's Arms.)

BALLOT PAPER to be used at the ELECTION of a MEMBER of the HOUSE of ASSEMBLY.

Directions for use.

The voter is to take this paper into the inner room, and there immediately to strike through in ink the names of the candidates for whom he does not intend to vote. But he must be careful, if only one member is to be returned for the district, not to leave more than the name of one candidate not struck through; and if there be more than one member to be returned for such district, he does not leave the names of more candidates not struck out than there are members to be returned for such electoral district.

☞ N.B.—*If this direction be not attended to the ballot paper will be invalid.*

The voter must not take this paper out of the room in which he receives it, excepting into the inner room, where he is entitled to strike through the candidates' names in secrecy; and neither the returning officer nor other person is entitled to approach him whilst he is so striking through the candidates' names. Immediately the candidates' names are struck through, the voter is to put this paper into the ballot box, and whilst he is so doing no person is to approach him.

Any voter guilty of unnecessary delay in filling up this ballot paper will be subject to the penalties of a misdemeanor.

Clerk of the Peace.

Returning Officer for the Electoral District of

[*Here the Candidates Names will be written or printed in alphabetical order, and numbered in figures in regular succession.*]

I have to add that the system of vote by ballot has proved economical and most satisfactory.

The houses of the colonial parliament being both elective, their relative rights in the appropriation of revenue, and generally in money bills, have given rise to difference of opinion the settlement of which has not yet been finally concluded.

The 33d clause of the Constitutional Act provides that money bills shall originate in the House of Assembly, and that it shall not be lawful for the said House of Assembly to originate or pass any money vote unless recommended by the Governor.

Transportation.

The Legislative Council presented an address against the revival of transportation to Australia and its dependencies in December 1856, and the House of Assembly did so also in April 1857. Both addresses were respectively transmitted to Downing Street with my Despatches No. 5.* of the 19th January and No. 63.* of the 12th May 1857.

In August 1855, by the local Act No. 3. of 19 Vict., penal servitude was substituted in Tasmania in lieu of transportation. Prisoners were then subjected to fixed terms of penal servitude; and the system of "passes" and "tickets of

* Vide Papers on Convict Discipline presented by Command, August 1857, pages 88 and 90.

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of leave was ended as respects offenders sentenced within the colony from that date.

The question of how it was that transportation to New South Wales and Van Diemen's Land once for a time answered well, and then became, as it now continues, intolerable to both colonies, would open up a very wide field of inquiry, and render necessary a consideration of very conflicting views which have been held even by the same persons in Australia at different times.

Unnecessary as it is now to revert in detail to the past history of the system, it is still expedient, wherever else beyond Australia transportation may be carried, to bear in mind that a supply of convict labour becomes obnoxious when it competes with free labour, or from moderate proportions swells into a glut, and that the main object of secondary punishment, the conversion of former offenders into useful members of society, was on the whole best attained in Australia by the plan known as the "assignment system."

Transportation can never in all probability in any case be more than a temporary policy, protracted or abridged by discretion in meting out the supply, its description, and the slower or quicker progress of a free population.

Convict Department.

The willingness of Her Majesty's Government to transfer the Convict Department to the Colonial Government, on adjustment of future payments in a mode prescribed in Despatch of No. 56. of 4th May 1856, was notified to the local parliament on 3d December 1856, but no intention to accept the transfer has been expressed. My Despatch No. 91. of the 15th July and No. 114. of the 16th August 1856 reported that the Imperial expenditure for this service for the year 1857–58, as contrasted with that of the year 1856–57, showed a reduction of 30,328*l.* 6*s.* 10*d.*, and that with a reduction in the number of convicts of five thousand six hundred and seventy-one, in the eighteen months preceding the 30th June 1856, there had also been a reduction in the official establishment of two magistrates, three superintendents, five chaplains, four medical officers, twelve clerks, and one hundred and forty-two subordinate officers.

The number of convicts on the 30th June 1856 was 6,047, and the discipline officers in no case exceeded the proportion of one officer to twenty-five convicts, a proportion originally sanctioned by the Secretary of State.

The number of convicts on the 31st December 1856 was 5,421; viz. 3,871 gaining their own livelihood, and maintained by Government 1,550. Nine executions took place in Tasmania in 1856. Of these six were prisoners of the Crown at the time of trial, and three were free by expiry of servitude.

Railways.

In August 1856, Mr. Spreut of the Survey Office made a preliminary survey of the country for a branch line of railway between Launceston, Morven, Perth, Longford, Carrick, Westbury, and Deloraine; a distance in all of 42 miles, including ten miles of the projected main trunk line from Hobart Town to Launceston. This last larger project of a railway of 120 miles to connect the two chief towns of the island was adverted to in my Blue Book Report of the year 1855.

The small branch line to which I now advert would pass through a country presenting but little engineering difficulty.

The general character of the soil along the whole of the proposed branch line is agricultural. Between Launceston and Morven, ten miles, there is very rich land at present under cultivation.

The properties are let in small farms. The soil is a rich black loam. The rocks are of the trap families; no sandstone, but good clay for building. Between Morven and Perth the line would pass for four miles over a low range of the same character, partly cultivated and partly under pasture, but fit for anything.

Between Perth and the crossing of the South Esk River the land is for four miles of a more varied kind, chiefly under pasture, but suitable also for agriculture. From the South Esk to Carrick, a distance of five miles and a half, there is a large extent of fine arable land lying in the direction of Bishopsbourne, Carrick, &c.

The produce is now considerable, and must increase rapidly.

Between Carrick and Westbury, a distance of nine miles, on both sides of the line, there is a still larger extent of country available for agriculture. The south side would include the fine lands watered by the Liffey stream and the Long Swamp, while the north side would comprehend the extensive country on the north side of the Meander River.

In the portion between Westbury and Doleraine, nine miles and a half, the country is not so flat, but the soil is of the very best description, and is found to retain this character from the lower grounds even to considerable elevations.

Beyond Deloraine there is much good land on the Upper Meander River, the Dairy Rivulet, Lobster Rivulet, Chudleigh, and the country on the north side of the road to the westward.

There is lime of the best quality in great abundance in this neighbourhood.

The whole line passes through trap rocks, and their concomitants. Sandstone is rarely present; sand was not observed, and gravel occasionally.

The line is through private property, and timber in several places at easy distances from the line. The Crown lands with timber are distant and difficult of access, except at Westbury and Deloraine.

The estimated population through which the proposed line of branch railway would pass, viz. Launceston, Morven, Perth, Longford, Carrick, Westbury, and Deloraine, is 26,000. The land under crop 79,110 acres; the uncultivated land 1,198,559 acres.

The exports at Launceston in 1856 are valued at 532,567*l.*; the imports for the same period at 467,749*l.*

A public meeting was recently held at Deloraine, and resolutions were unanimously adopted in favour of the proposed line of railway, as one which would yield a liberal rate of interest on its cost, and prove of essential service to the districts.

The present traffic is estimated (at the rates the railway will probably charge) to be 40,000*l.* per annum, the supposed rates being 4*d.* per bushel for wheat, 3*d.* per bushel for barley and oats, and 10*s.* a ton for potatoes, garden produce, wool, butter and cheese, hay, merchandise, and 4*s.* each passenger.

Gold Fields.

In my last annual report mention was made of an expenditure of public money for the purpose of examining places in Tasmania which geology and experience indicated as probably auriferous. The report of the exploration has been published in the local Government Gazette, and is herewith enclosed.

Encl. in No. 32. Page 222.

The result is that, neither surfacing nor deep deposits of a rich character have been discovered, nevertheless several practical results, more or less valuable, have been attained. 1st, the distribution of gold has been traced over a large extent of country. 2ndly, Attention has been directed to the quartz reefs or veins which interlace the slate rocks. Insufficient machinery has been employed by a private company in crushing quartz without satisfactory result.

The police magistrate in the Fingal district reports that from the 28th June to the 27th December 1856 the actual yield of the diggings has been 259 ounces 6 pennyweights. This aggregate was collected at the periods and in the amounts specified below, viz.

	oz.	dwts.
June	3	10
July	10	10
"	5	15
"	7	0
"	7	10
August	5	0
"	7	0
"	8	10
"	5	5
"	9	15
September	9	10
"	11	2
"	6	0
"	9	0

	oz.	dwts.
October	12	15
"	11	3
"	12	16
"	10	10
November	28	15
"	19	10
"	7	10
"	12	0
"	10	0
December	7	0
"	5	0
"	13	0
"	4	10

With my Despatches Nos. 89. of the 3d July and 106. of the 14th August 1856, I transmitted reports of a brief visit of the Reverend W. B. Clarke, the geologist, to Tasmania from Sydney.

Port Frederick on the River Mersey.

Within the last three years a population of 1,500 persons is reported to have settled around this district, which includes the River Don. About 25,000*l.* have been invested in land; 4,000 or 5,000 acres are cultivated; three steam mills are at work, besides a flour mill for horse-power, and there are five licensed inns, one brewery, and 10 stores.

Coal is raised from four pits, the average yield being 1,000 tons per month. Vessels varying from 100 to 400 tons frequent the port. The steamer "Titania" calls there regularly en route along the north-west coast from Launceston to Circular Head. There is a police magistrate and some constables, a school under the board of education, and divine service twice every Sunday.

Lines of tramway to the coal pits and steam saw mills have been laid down to an aggregate extent of seventeen miles. The land is good, covered with fine timber, and possesses lime and iron ore, besides coal.

Port Frederick has been recently declared a port of entry, which will thus enable imports and exports to take place direct from and to the most favourable market, whether at Launceston or Melbourne.

Whaling.

There are twenty-eight vessels, of an aggregate tonnage of five thousand five hundred and seventy-six tons, with eighty-four boats, and six hundred and thirty men, employed in the whaling trade of Tasmania at the present time.

In 1842, after twenty years of success in "bay whaling," whales became shy of approaching the land of Tasmania, and the enterprise since then has been conducted in sea-going vessels of about three hundred tons. The whaling ground in the winter is off the coast of New Zealand, particularly in the direction of the Chatham islands; and in summer on the south coast of Tasmania.

In 1841 the port of Hobart Town was a rendezvous for foreign whaling vessels, and within the last few weeks three foreign whalers have visited it, reporting a scarcity of whales in the North Pacific. The coast of Tasmania is reckoned to be swept by one hundred whaling vessels from foreign countries.

The ports of Tasmania are free ports to foreign whaling vessels, with the exception of pilotage at Hobart Town, which is, however, not compulsory, but available or not, at the option of the foreigner.

Nearly the whole of the Tasmanian whalers occasionally frequent Port Davey. In the month of November 1856 fourteen whaling vessels were there at anchor together. It is much resorted to as a safe and commodious port for vessels of any size, when wood and water are obtainable, and being uninhabited temptations to the desertion of crews do not exist.

Since January 1856 over eight hundred tons of sperm oil have been landed by Tasmanian vessels. Black oil is seldom procured.

The shipping master at Hobart Town reports that "the native born youths "of Tasmania evince great aptitude as whalers, and that it invariably happens "on their return that they undertand most of the duties of ordinary seamen,

" steering excepted. Whaling as an employment for men previously ignorant " of anything connected with a ship has been attended with extremely " beneficial results. Able-bodied landsmen, such as farm labourers, are well " adapted for pulling."

With the view of encouraging the study of navigation by Tasmanian youths a prize of ten pounds is to be given at the central school in Hobart Town to the boy who has made the greatest proficiency in the study of navigation, and who engages to apprentice himself to a whaler.

Federation.

The suggestion of a federal assembly for the Australian colonies has been submitted, in a letter dated 11th April 1857, from the honorary secretary of an association, transmitting to the local Government the copy of a memorial addressed to the Right Honorable the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Some of the matters mentioned in this memorial as suitable to be disposed of in a federal assembly, to originate in an Act of the Imperial Parliament granting permissive power to the colonies to form or join such a federation, are practically and amicably adjusting themselves, without waiting for or needing other than local intervention.

I allude to "lighthouses and beacons," in which there is a common interest to inter-colonial mails, and to the connection of the colonies by electric telegraph.

On the first two points commissioners from the principal Australian colonies were assembled at Melbourne in 1856-57, with satisfactory results; and the Government of Victoria and Tasmania have already agreed to defray the cost of a submarine electric cable across Bass' Straits, which will connect Tasmania with the inland lines of telegraph in Australia now in progress of construction from Adelaide and Sydney to Melbourne.

There is already established in this island a line of electric telegraph between Hobart Town and Launceston.

As respects an inter-colonial tariff, the opening up of the navigation and commerce of the River Murray for two thousand miles during a great part of every ordinary year, and the probable additional equal length of the navigable tributaries of that river, render the establishment of a common tariff for South Australia, New South Wales, and Victoria a subject of such great convenience and emergency that its adjustment became very early a subject of mutual negotiation, which is now drawing to a satisfactory close. That which the memorialists term "the clumsy contrivance" at first adopted of collecting the river duties at the sea mouth of the river, according to the tariff of South Australia, and dividing them among the treasuries of the colonies on the banks of which the articles were landed for consumption, was, I think, under the circumstances, a very natural expedient, and obviated the vexation and delays of custom houses on the river banks of Victoria and New South Wales, and it has most probably hastened the substitution of that better system of equality between the three colonies which will provide a scale of duties common to all, by enactment of the legislature of each colony.

The island of Tasmania is not, however, necessarily so interested in the tariff question as are conterminous colonies, and the state of its revenue will probably influence the time when its tariff shall be assimilated to that of the others in Australia.

As respects also a common court of appeal for all Australia, there can be no question that when the advantage of it shall be recognized by the parliament of each colony local legislation will follow with its sanction.

When, however, regard is had to the reluctance with which eligible persons to be members of parliament are drawn, even within their own colony, to give their gratuitous services to the legislature, the creation of a federal assembly which would require of course the majority of its members to quit their own colony, and absent themselves from their local pursuits and interests, is a measure which it would be expedient for the imperial Parliament to abstain from originating unless moved to do so by the unanimous addresses of all the local parliaments.

As yet the subject has not engaged the attention of the responsible ministry of Tasmania.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. E. F. YOUNG.

TASMANIA.

Encl. in No. 32.

Enclosure in No. 32.

REPORT of the FINGAL GOLD EXPLORATION COMMITTEE, 11th December 1856.

Government Notice.

No. 86.

Colonial Secretary's Office, 18th June 1857.

THE Governor directs the following letter and report from the Fingal Exploration Committee to be published for general information.

By His Excellency's Command,

WILLIAM HENTY.

Fingal Gold Exploration Committee, Hobart Town,
11th December 1856.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to enclose the report of the above committee with reference to the disposal of the Government grant of 2,000*l.* in aid of the development of a working gold field at Fingal.

I am also instructed by this committee to call your especial attention to the extract from the report annexed; and to add their earnest hope that Government may be pleased to take such steps as may be deemed requisite to carry the expedition recommended by the committee into immediate effect.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your obedient Servant,
GEO. WHITCOMB, Hon. Secretary.

To W. T. N. Champ, Esq.,
Colonial Secretary.

Fingal Gold Exploration Committee.

Committee:

T. D. Chapman, Esq.
W. Crooke, Esq.
A. Macnaughtan, Esq.
A. H. Maning, Esq.
W. E. Nairn, Esq.
R. P. Stuart, Esq.
George Stevenson, Esq.
L. Roope, Esq.
G. Whitcomb, Esq.

The above committee appointed at a public meeting of the Inhabitants of Hobart Town, held the 29th May 1856 (with the exception of Messrs. Nairn and Stuart, who were named by the Government), to dispose of the Government grant of 2,000*l.* in aid of the discovery of a workable gold field in Tasmania, beg to lay before the public the following report of their proceedings.

In the early part of the year 1852 attention was directed to the neighbourhood of Fingal by the report of gold having been found on Crown land held by Mr. Grant of Tullochgorum. This circumstance appears to have excited considerable interest at the time, the then recent discovery of gold in Victoria encouraging the hope of a gold field also in this island. The value of such a discovery was, however, but inadequately appreciated, and though several parties who were preparing to cross the channel were attracted to the ground, their stay was too brief, and their labour too scanty, fairly to ascertain the gold bearing worth of the place. The rapid development of the rich fields of Victoria, and the certainty of labour being well rewarded there, speedily withdrew all parties from Fingal, and, for some months, little or nothing was heard of the supposed Tasmanian gold field.

Two years ago, about the time of the Macquarie Harbour expedition, Launceston sent a party of men to work upon Specimen Hill, and in the gullies round the Nook. No satisfactory result was arrived at, and though a few men continued from that time to work in Major's Gully, the Hospital Gully, and one or two other localities, and gold in small quantities was obtained, the country generally remained unexplored. In May of this year it was announced that his Excellency, yielding to the solicitations of the community of the colony, represented by some of the principal merchants of Launceston and Hobart Town, had consented to the appropriation of 2,000*l.* from the public treasury for the purpose of a more thorough exploration of the country in the neighbourhood of Fingal, it being deemed in the highest degree desirable that the question, whether or not Tasmania afforded a paying gold field, should (so far as the locality of Fingal was concerned) if possible be finally settled.

The disposal of this sum having been entrusted to this committee (who, it was understood, would act in concert with a similar committee at Launceston), stores, tools, and the other requisites for the work were purchased accordingly. Practical diggers were

invited by advertisement to proceed to the diggings, where they were to be supplied, on certain conditions, with tents and rations, and a superintendent and storekeeper appointed.

On Monday, 23d June, the gratuitous distribution of rations commenced; and from that date to the end of November the average number of men employed in the neighbourhood of Fingal and at the Black Boy may be estimated at 70 per week, inclusive of those who provided their own outfit.

The following return will show the average for each month of men rationed gratuitously, and working under the superintendence of the committee:—

1856.	July	70 Rations weekly.
	August	74 „
	September	69 „
	October	48 „
	November	32 „

At the outset all the men on the ground were included on the committee's list; but many have gradually withdrawn, preferring to work in the gullies which had been prospected, and whose value has therefore been ascertained.

The object of the expedition being rather to explore than to work upon ground previously known to be gold yielding, the men have been required to spread themselves as much as practicable through the country, and have received rations only on the understanding that they should betake themselves to the proper work of prospecting. This has been especially the case since the beginning of September, hence the numbers on the free list have been constantly diminishing, while the number of men working for themselves in gullies already opened has proportionately increased.

In summing up the amount of work actually done by the diggers who have been rationed from the committee's stores, it is not easy to make such a statement as will convey a correct and adequate notion of it, except to those who are personally acquainted with the ground, and can appreciate the numerous difficulties which have impeded the operations.

In addition to the gullies Major's, Harrison's, and Sharkie's, and the side of Specimen Hill, all previously known to contain gold, but now more completely opened, many other gullies within a circle from the Nook of five or six miles' radius have been examined; but, out of nearly twenty gullies partially opened, only one has been found to yield gold in such quantities as to enable it to rank with the older diggings, and that is called "Peter's Gully," about two miles nearer the township of Fingal than Major's Creek. Everywhere else, with but one or two exceptions, traces of gold are found, though but a few specks to a dishful of earth.

In July a small party of men were despatched to the Black Boy Flat, near the junction of the South Esk and the Tyne rivers. Attention was first directed to this neighbourhood by the report that Mr. Adam Sutherland had there found a good prospect. The men were to have located along the skirt of the tiers running north and north by east of the Tower Hill.

For some time their labour was but slightly productive, but towards the end of August the promises of success became more cheering. A stratum of earth lying but two or three feet beneath the surface was found, which for several weeks yielded so well that hopes were entertained of a good lead of gold, a rich alluvial deposit being at length discovered. These hopes led to the reinforcement of the party at the Black Boy; and during the months of September and October there were from 35 to 40 men working on that ground. The original promise was, however, unfulfilled; and though every endeavour was made to trace the course of the supposed deposit, and to discover any similar deposits that might exist in the gullies emptying themselves in the flat, the labour was unsuccessful. At first the abundance of surface water made sinking in most places impossible; and when the dry weather set in, the entire absence of water, except at a very considerable distance from the place of work, rendered washing extremely difficult. Hence from two opposite but inevitable causes the labours of the men were impeded, and at length, from the unproductive character of all the ground that it was found practicable to open, it was deemed advisable to abandon the Flat altogether. The final removal of this party was not, however, effected until the eastern flank of the Flower Hill tiers, extending from the Black Boy to the Hospital Gully, about 15 miles, had been to some extent prospected. The result, unfortunately, has been no more satisfactory than in the case of the gullies on the western flank around the Nook.

In fine, it may be said that the whole system of tiers radiating from the Tower Hill as a centre, excepting those spurs which run between west and north, have been more or less explored. The chief impediments during the three first months of the exploration were the superabundance of water, and the difficulty of supplying rations and conveying implements to the outlying parties.

Extensive as the examination of the country has really been, it cannot be pronounced complete and conclusive; many places, which from their geological character are unquestionably the most likely to contain rich deposits of gold, having been of necessity left untouched. Such are some of the deep beds of drift gravel and boulders which mark the channels of the ancient watercourses. These are found in the bottoms of the larger

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gullies, and might doubtless be traced far into the flats through which the South Esk River winds. The opening of these beds would require a larger body of men, and more effective and costly implements, than the committee, with the means at command, were able to furnish. Where sinking has been practicable, that is, chiefly on the sides of the gu lies and in the higher parts of the bottom, holes have been carried down, varying in depth from 12 feet to 50 feet; but as such sinking was, from the very nature of prospecting work, for the most part purely conjectural, and as the men were unable, from lack of the necessary machinery, to carry down their shafts in many spots, which, judging by the analogy of other diggings, would prove most probably productive, the yield of gold from these holes has, with a few exceptions, been unremunerative. Occasionally a patch of ground has been hit upon from which a few ounces of granular shotty gold have been obtained. These instances of success have stimulated the flagging hopes of the men, and led to a further exploring of the promising locality, with a view to striking and tracing the lead, if such should be there; but hitherto such hopes have issued in disappointment. There has, however, always been a sufficient amount of success to encourage the best and most experienced diggers to persevere in the search. Though no rich prizes have been obtained, and though the product has not been large enough, on the average, to recompense the labour, yet the prospects have for the most part continued so good as to prove a steady stimulus to hope of eventual success.

Alternating between elation and disappointment, the best section of the committee's men have persisted for five months with a constancy meriting a better reward.

In estimating the actual yield of these diggings since June last, we must distinguish between the two elements of fact and conjecture. For the former, the following return of gold purchased by the committee's superintendent may be relied on as correct:—

Fingal, the Nook and Neighbourhood.

	ozs.	dwts.	grs.	ozs.	dwts.	grs.
July and August - - -	25	12	13			
September - - -	25	1	22			
October - - - -	26	5	12			
November - - -	27	10	0			
				104	9	23

Black Boy Flat.

August - - - -	4	15	0			
September - - - -	10	16	1			
				15	11	1
Total - -				120	1	0

The quantity of gold otherwise disposed of may be moderately estimated at one fourth of the entire product, which would give one third more than that sold to the superintendent, that is, 40 ounces, making the entire amount for the five months 160 ounces. This latter item is of course little more than conjectural; but there is every reason to think that it is rather below than over the truth.

Considering the unfavourable season (an unusally severe one) at which the exploration was commenced, the unavoidable deficiency in means and appliances, the uncertainty and insufficiency of honorary labour, and the necessary contingency of prospecting operations, this gross amount cannot be regarded as otherwise than encouraging. True, but a small average remuneration is shown; but it should be borne in mind that the purpose of this expedition was not so much to obtain gold where it was known to exist, as to examine those untried places which geology and experience indicate as probably auriferous. The discovery, not the development, of gold-yielding ground is the true province of an exploring party such as that recently at work; and how far this discovery has really extended can only be ascertained by future enterprize. Disappointment may, indeed, be felt by many that none of the party have, by felicitous accident, stumbled upon surfacing or deep deposits rich as those developed in Victoria or New South Wales; but, notwithstanding their failure in this respect, it is undeniable that several practical results, more or less valuable, have been attained. Some of these may be glanced at.

1. The distribution of gold has been traced over a much larger extent of country, so that the area for future enterprise is materially widened. In the vicinity of Avoca, along the gullies skirting the South Esk towards Fingal, among the spurs of the Tower Hill, and in the creeks which come down both from the Tower and from Ben Lomond, also on the eastern bank of the Esk, and behind Mount Nicholas near the head of the Scamander, and thence northward through the entire country bordered by the Bay of Fires, the existence of gold has been ascertained.

2. The character of the ground is now known; and, hereafter, diggers who may essay a trial will be guided by the experience acquired during the last five months. In the gullies already opened no leads of alluvial gold are found; but under beds of drift gravel and stones, loose or cemented with hard clay, the gold is generally distributed. Every-

where around the Nook, it is from the fissures and cavities which abound over the broken surface of the bottom rock that the heaviest gold is obtained. From the nature of the ground it lies in "patches;" and occasionally such patches, though but of small extent, have been found to contain a comparatively large proportion of gold. The main chance of success would appear to be in the casual discovery of these rich spots; and it is not unlikely that, as the ground is further opened, that larger and richer spots will be laid bare. On the Black Boy Flat the ground is of a different description; there, immediately below the super-soil, are seams of a gravelly clay, presenting the varied tints of red and brown, and penetrated by small seams of a darker hue; these overlie a pipeclay, in some places white, in others yellow or tinged with blue. Another beds upon a slate of a soft texture and irregular grain, but much bluer and of a finer quality than the coarse slaty rock which forms the staple of the hill nearer Fingal. But not only have men been taught to choose the sites of work, but they are now better informed as to the implements and apparatus necessary for the successful prosecution of the work. If those parts of the gold-fields already known are to be advantageously developed, there must be a freer speculation in plant and labour. There appears reason to believe, as in the case of analogous diggings, that the judicious application of capital would issue in an abundant recompense; but with only the primitive appliances of pick, shovel, tub, and cradle, men cannot expect, except most fortuitously, more than a precarious livelihood, unless a large accession of labourers should lead to happier discoveries.

3. Attention has been directed to the quartz reefs or veins which interlace the slate rocks of the neighbourhood. The small reef on Specimen Hill, from which the largest number of specimens have been taken, has been well opened on one side. Upon this the insufficient machinery of the Launceston Crushing Company has been chiefly employed, but without satisfactory result. It was not the function of the exploration party to develope these reefs, but simply to ascertain their existence and extent. These are found to be inexhaustible, and may yet realize the highest expectations.

The reef upon which the largest amount of labour has been bestowed is that in Grant's Gully, known as Sedden's Reef. A shaft has been carried down about 130 feet, the workmen being for a time assisted from the committee's stores, and afterwards sustained by private capital; but it is to be regretted that lack of means has compelled the men to abandon for a time their enterprise. The upper side of the reef has been exposed to a very considerable depth, but its auriferous capacity remains unproved. Let any portion of these reefs eventually prove renumerative, and from their number and extent it may confidently be predicted that they will in the course of years become a source of almost boundless wealth to the colony.

Specimens from several of these quartz veins have been sent to Sydney for analysis there, as also specimens of quartz from Macquarie Harbour, Port Davey, and the neighbourhood of the Frenchman's Cap; and in every piece of quartz tested gold has been found.

The specimens from the neighbourhood of the Frenchman's Cap were picked up by Mr. Caldar and Dr. Crowther in their geological search in that locality in the summer of 1852 or 1853; and although no gold was visible in any of the pieces even through a microscope, yet the yield of gold in one of them was found to be at the rate of thirteen ounces to the ton.

The neighbourhood of the Frenchman's Cap was long since pointed out by the Rev. W. B. Clarke as the place most likely to contain the richest deposit of gold in Tasmania; and, considering how prophetic many of the conjectures of that gentleman with regard to several gold fields in New South Wales afterwards turned out, the committee earnestly recommend that an expedition to the locality of the Frenchman's Cap should be at once set on foot; and would further add, that, in their opinion, no more fitting person could be found to conduct it than Mr. Calder, who has already visited that part of the colony, and who is in many other respects eminently qualified for the mission.

The information contained in the greater part of this report is given as furnished by the committee's superintendent at Fingal, Mr. W. L. Horton, of whose meritorious exertions in the performance of his duties the committee desire to express their entire approval.

The operations under the control of the committee will close at the end of the present month, when as soon after as practicable an account of the disbursements of the 2000*l.* granted will be made up for publication.

By order of the committee,

GEORGE WHITCOMB, Hon. Secretary.

Hobart Town, 11th December 1856.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

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No. 33.

No. 33.

COPY of DESPATCH from Governor Sir R. G. MACDONNELL to the Right Honourable H. LABOUCHERE, M.P.

(No. 186.)

Government House, Adelaide,
October 15, 1857.

SIR, (Received January 13, 1858.)

1. I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the Blue Book for 1856, and it affords me very great satisfaction to refer to it, and the other documents accompanying it, as convincingly proving the steady onward progress of this colony in all the elements of substantial and permanent prosperity.

2. I received the Blue Book so late in the year, and it was also so late before some returns could be prepared which I had been anxious to transmit, that, although some of those returns have not yet reached me, I shall no longer defer transmitting the Blue Book, reserving for the present the remarks which I had intended offering on many topics connected with the past history and present prospects of this province. I shall, however, draw your attention now to some of the most prominent features in the Blue Book, and the statistical returns which I transmit with it.

Encl. 1 in No. 33.

Population.

3. The increase under this head is most satisfactory,—the total population at the end of 1856 being computed to have amounted to 104,708 souls,—that is, more than quadruple the population of ten years previously, when the number was under 26,000, whilst it also consists of males and females more nearly balanced than in any other of the Australian colonies, the numbers being:—

Males.	Females.
53,086	51,622

It may be useful here to compare in this respect the relative proportions of the sexes in South Australia and the adjoining colonies. I shall therefore do so, and in referring to the comparative statistics of New South Wales, Victoria, and Tasmania, I wish it to be understood that I derive my information from the most authentic source, viz., from tables which have been obligingly furnished to me by the Governors of those colonies.

4. The following table of the population of New South Wales and South Australia at the close of 1856, and of Victoria and Tasmania in March of the present year, will prove the accuracy of the above statement as to the proportion of the sexes here:—

——	New South Wales.	Victoria.	South Australia.	Tasmania.
Males - - -	161,882	260,910	53,086	45,916
Females - -	124,991	145,667	51,622	34,886
Total - -	286,873	406,577	104,708	80,802

Thus it appears that out of a total population of 104,708 there was only an excess of 1,464 males, a small number when it is remembered how many must be employed as stockmen, shepherds, &c., &c., and in occupations which are often necessarily followed in distant and unsettled districts by persons most of whom are unincumbered by families.

5. Whilst the agricultural occupations of a large proportion of the inhabitants of this colony are more favourable to the settlement of families than the gold fields of Victoria, there is no doubt that the existence of the latter within a distance not difficult of access from this colony has a tendency to draw hence

any redundant male population. That tendency should therefore be kept in view in determining the character of the Government immigration to this province. You will observe that in 1851, there was a serious disparity between the sexes here as well as in the adjacent colonies,—there being then only 26,800 females to 39,738 males, or 40 per cent. females of the whole population; whilst in the following year, in consequence of the gold discoveries opening up in the interior, a new field of enterprise especially inviting to one sex, the numbers were 32,353 females to 36,310 males, or 47 per cent. females of the total population.

6. In 1855 the sexes became more nearly equalized, males 48,640, females 48,342, and during one period of that year it is probable that in consequence of the introduction of 7,357 assisted female immigrants, there was actually an excess of females over males, an occurrence wholly unprecedented in these colonies.

7. During 1856, the births were 4,488, and the deaths 1,147, being an excess of births over deaths of 3,341. Full particulars as to the causes of death are given in the enclosed annual report of the Registrar General, from which you will observe that the large number of 490 deaths out of the total 1,147 were children under one year of age.

Immigration.

8. In these colonies the increase and decrease of population is so directly affected by the importation of immigrants, that the subject of population naturally leads to that of immigration and emigration. There is, however, considerable room still for improvement in the compilation of those returns, which moreover are given only for Port Adelaide. Numerous bodies of Chinese landed there during the year 1856, and immediately left for Victoria, either proceeding over land the whole distance, or sailing hence to Port Elliot, and so making their way to Victoria by the Murray. The attention of the local authorities was not for a time sufficiently directed to the importance of distinguishing between the classes of immigrants arriving, with a view to ascertaining the real increase of population thereby gained. It is impossible now fully to correct the errors for 1856, which have arisen from not distinguishing between the Chinese and other immigrants. It was announced in the speech with which I opened the present Parliament last April, that the population of the colony at the close of 1856 was 109,000, but that estimate has been since reduced to 104,700 in consequence of the attention of the ministry being drawn by me to the Chinese immigration to Port Adelaide. I shall not, however, further allude to that part of the subject, but may mention that during the first six months of this year there has been a very large Chinese immigration to Port Robe in the south-eastern part of the province. It appears from a return now before me of Mr. Melville, the Sub-collector of Customs at that port, that between the 17th January and the 4th May, 10,235 Chinese from Hong Kong landed there, all of whom immediately left overland for the Victoria gold fields, having adopted this circuitous route for the purpose of avoiding the poll tax levied on Chinese landing in a Victorian seaport.

9. As the Legislature here has now passed a law, which will soon be proclaimed, imposing the same tax on the Chinese landing here as that to which they are subject in Victoria, this immigration will no doubt soon cease altogether. The great numbers in which they landed at Robe Town—as many as 924 arriving in one ship—induced me to station a small military detachment there; but I am bound to say in behalf of this singular race, that, considering the circumstances of their arrival and the extortion and provocation to which they were occasionally subjected, they have hitherto manifested in their conduct considerable forbearance and respect for the law, conducting themselves generally with decorum and propriety.

10. Having thus drawn your attention to the fact of the emigration and immigration returns applying to Port Adelaide alone, and my reason for doubting the accuracy of those returns, as a guide to the real permanent gain in population which might be inferred from the excess of arrivals over departures, you will observe the excess at Port Adelaide for 1856 is given as 9,841.

11. The enclosed return of the Immigration Agent shows that fifteen vessels arrived here during 1856, carrying 4,177 souls, of whom I find by further investigation 2,335 were males and 1,837 females, showing an excess of 498

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males. The following table gives the leading facts of the immigration of the last four years :—

Year.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Adult Single Females.
1853	1,948	2,635	4,583	826
1854	3,609	5,215	8,824	2,093
1855	4,514	7,357	11,871	4,049
1856	2,335	1,837	4,177	624

12. The Immigration Agent's quarterly reports for 1856 contain ample evidence of improvement in the selection of immigrants for this colony during 1856 as compared with the previous year, whilst the renewed and pressing applications made from time to time by the Immigration Agent for an increased supply of really good female servants exhibit the great capacity of South Australia for absorbing and settling here that particular class of immigrants, if well selected. Unfortunately the difficulties are great of inducing well-trained single female servants of good character to emigrate from Great Britain, where, as the Emigration Commissioners observe, such services are also in demand. Individually, I have no doubt that really good single female domestic servants and well-trained farm servants to the amount of 100 per month would readily get settled here, and though I objected to the very large female immigration of 1855 as unsuited to the peculiar exigencies of this colony, I cannot view with entire satisfaction the excess of males in the assisted emigration of 1856, even though it be but a temporary departure from the usual course, and not intended to make the immigration of 1856 a precedent for future years.

Pauperism.

13. It is gratifying to find, when considering the condition of the population settled in this colony, that with the increase of population there has also been a considerable decrease of the destitution which marked the year 1855. The enclosed half-yearly reports of the Destitute Board show that the number of persons receiving relief and on their books on the 31st December 1855 were 1,338. At the end of the first half of the year that number was reduced to 531, whilst at the close of the year it amounted to only 365, or little more than one fourth of what it had been twelve months previously. No case of an able-bodied male labourer being relieved at the public expense ever occurs; and even during the great pressure occasioned in 1855 by an extraordinary influx of nearly 12,000 Government immigrants during a period of scarcity following a deficient harvest, the vigorous prosecution of public works and the providing employment at low wages for all able-bodied labourers at the quarries, which I caused to be opened near the Dry Creek, about seven miles from Adelaide, rendered the necessity of administering relief directly to the able-bodied a matter of rare occurrence, once that system had been got into working order.

Crime.

14. In this respect, also, I think the community has just reason to congratulate itself, especially if we look back a few years; for, whilst the convictions for felony in the Supreme Court were 80 and 96 in the years 1850 and 1851, the population being then only 63,700 and 66,538 respectively, the convictions for felony in the Supreme Court during 1856 only amounted to 73 in a population exceeding 104,000. The convictions for misdemeanors for the former years were 93 and 103 respectively, and in 1856 only 85. As the police force is certainly not less efficient now in procuring convictions than it was formerly, these returns are good exponents of the moral character of the people, as well as of the general comfort in which the increased population is enabled to live. Moreover it should be remembered, that some of the worst crimes, both against person and property, are committed by liberated convicts from Tasmania, and of late from Western Australia.

15. An equally favourable, and I think a very remarkable as well as satisfactory evidence of progress, will be found in the records of the Magistrates' Courts in Adelaide, where the informations under Acts of Council were but 478 in 1856, against 954 in 1855, and 1,046 in 1854; whilst the number of criminal cases tried, though somewhat in excess of the preceding years, was but 208 against 539 in 1850.

16. Convictions for drunkenness, the root of so much crime, have also diminished greatly as compared with the three preceding years, a fact which has increased significance when viewed in connexion with the great addition made to the general population in the last few years. The following table gives the number of convictions for this offence in the Metropolitan Courts:—

Year.	1850.	1851.	1852.	1853.	1854.	1855.	1856.
Number of offences - -	388	361	476	750	969	834	630

I have hopes, moreover, that drunkenness will continue perceptibly to diminish each succeeding year as compared with the population, if the cultivation of vineyards and manufacture of wine continue to progress as of late years, there being now 753 acres in vineyards, whilst there were but 197 acres of vines in 1849. I may also observe, that as the above metropolitan returns, favourable though they be if compared with the statistics of the other Australian capitals, represent in a great measure habitual offenders, of whom some were convicted more than a dozen times in the year; the population of South Australia must not be judged as to sobriety by those returns.

Education.

17. As an auxiliary of civil government in preventing the growth of crime, independent of its paramount influence in promoting the social happiness and moral progress of a people, I pass naturally from treating of crime to its best preventive, the education of the rising youth of both sexes. On this subject there is much to rejoice at when we consider the recent origin of the colony, founded not twenty-one years ago. It is natural that physical and material wants should, under such circumstances, have hitherto claimed the principal attention of a community which had to commence by housing itself against the weather, and raising subsistence from an uncultivated wilderness. In this point of view I do not consider it an unsatisfactory result, that the State contribution to education in 1856, both in aid of stipends to teachers and the erection of school-houses, salaries of inspectors, &c. &c., reached 12,230*l.*, and that the number of licensed schools was 147, with an average attendance of 6,516 pupils, taught by 147 licensed teachers.

18. The Central Board of Education, whose report for the last half of 1856 I enclose, computes that two-fifths of the pupils under instruction in the whole province are taught in schools not included in the above number, and unconnected with the Board. Thence they infer, that altogether there were in 1856, 10,830 of the youth of both sexes receiving more or less educational training; and, assuming the population of the colony at 92,000, they give one in every $8\frac{1}{2}$ of the population as the proportion of persons receiving education.

19. If that estimate be accurate, the proportion of youth here receiving some education would about equal the proportion in England; but the Board has evidently underrated the population, which at the close of 1856 amounted to 104,000, and perhaps averaged 100,000 during that year, so that the proportion of pupils to the population would be nearer one in $9\frac{1}{2}$ than $8\frac{1}{2}$.

20. It would also seem that as the census of March 1855 showed in a total of 85,109 inhabitants, as many as 27,155 boys and girls between two and fourteen years of age, or as we may thence infer, upwards of 17,700 between six and fourteen years, there must have been at least 20,000 such children in the colony in 1856, of whom, according to the statistics of the Board, more than 9,000 were receiving apparently no education whatever.

21. It is true that the number of schools and teachers is gradually increasing, but in many cases the instruction given is far from what is desirable, and I hope

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far from what it will be after the lapse of a few more years. I look forward with confidence to this community being hereafter distinguished for its attention to education, for the subject already excites much interest in all classes. Nevertheless, frequent changes of ministries during this session, and the consequent weakness of the Executive Government, has hitherto prevented the adoption of some comprehensive measure adapted to the educational wants of the country. In the meantime, as is proved by the annual report of Mr. Wyatt, the present chief inspector of schools, much is even now being accomplished, notwithstanding the inadequate means at the disposal of the Education Board.

22. There will, no doubt, be various opinions expressed as to the system which may finally prove most applicable to the means and wishes of the community. For my own part, I should gladly see established here a system like that which works so admirably in Upper Canada, where the whole country is divided into school districts, each of which has its common school; whilst a certain number of these districts are grouped into a county, which has its grammar school, where an industrious youth may obtain a free scholarship, and win his way by another step in the educational ladder to one of the colleges, as he might previously have passed from the common district school to the grammar school of the county.

23. In two respects the present system is based on right principles; first, Government attempts, in some degree, to proportion the assistance given to the individual enterprise and qualifications of teachers who establish schools, which latter must attain a certain standard of efficiency to entitle the teacher to a stipend; but though it thus promotes the casual exertions of individuals, it does not, like the Canadian system, proportion its aid to the amount contributed by the district, thereby awakening continuous public sympathy and action, instead of merely partial and desultory efforts of individuals. Secondly, like the Canadian system, it neither encourages nor permits any denominational distinction or teaching, and altogether, though far from adequate to the growing wants of the country, it has accomplished much good, and works sufficiently well to afford the community leisure, without serious inconvenience, to determine the best mode of improving it.

Agriculture.

24. I shall now pass from returns bearing on the moral and social development of the community to those which more directly exhibit the material condition of the population. I shall first notice the agricultural progress of the colony, as that has exercised the greatest influence on the character of the people, and contributed most to the present sound condition of the province. The yeomanry, who have here found a home, and who are at once tillers of the soil and employers of labour, are more than any one class the real bone and sinew of the colony; and the industry which has so widely covered the land with farms, homesteads, tillage, and fencing of every description, has probably never been equalled in its result in any British colony in the same number of years by the same amount of population.

25. The census returns of March 1855 gave a total population of 85,189, of which the professions and occupations of only 25,320 are accounted for, leaving 59,869 unaccounted for, of whom, no doubt, the great majority were women and children. Of the 25,320 whose occupations are given, 5,321 were farmers, 5,105 agricultural labourers, and 393 gardeners; that is, 10,819 were engaged directly in agriculture. If we contrast this number with that of the persons occupied in the other great interests of the colony, the mining and pastoral, and which figure most largely in its exports, we find there were but 840 miners and 1,338 shepherds and stockmen.

26. I have no reason to suppose that any considerable change took place during 1856 in the relative numbers of persons engaged in the above pursuits. I conclude, therefore, that those directly engaged in agriculture in 1856 were, as in 1855, five times more numerous than those engaged in all the mining and pastoral pursuits of the colony united. Nevertheless a careful analysis of the produce exported by those classes in 1856, as given in the accompanying statis-

tics (page 247) will show that the larger aggregate export was produced by the smaller number of individuals, thus,—

Exports, 1856.	
	£
Agricultural, farm, and dairy produce, &c. -	562,814
Mineral, 416,840*l.* } Pastoral, 412,163*l.* } - - - - -	829,003
Total - - - - -	1,391,817

27. It is, however, by the spread of agriculture that the greatest amount of industrial prosperity has been created here, and the real settlement of the country most effectually accomplished. The shepherd and the miner have rarely the same interest in their adopted country as the owner of a homestead, however humble, and of some acres, however few. The pursuit which gives most employment to labour, which creates most homesteads, and developes the greatest amount of social happiness amongst the greatest number, and which soonest enables the labourer to become an employer of labour, must rank high in the opinion either of the statesman or philanthropist, anxious to convert the wilderness into a prosperous and populous province. The results achieved here in that respect by the well-directed efforts of a comparatively small population are so striking that I am desirous of calling your special attention to them.

28. In 1846, or only ten years preceding the year whose history I am illustrating, all the population of this province did not exceed 23,000. At the end of 1856 it was 104,000, the mean number of the population, therefore, was but 65,000 during those ten years. In 1846 there were probably 40,000 acres under cultivation, including hay and miscellaneous crops, of which there was then no return. Ten years subsequently, or in 1856, there were 203,423 acres fenced in and cultivated, of which 162,000 acres were under wheat. There are at this moment probably not much less than 230,000 acres under cultivation, being more than two acres to every man, woman, and child now in the province. I am not aware that any equivalent result has been attained either in Europe or America in so short a time by the same number of individuals. Even in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland the proportion of cultivated land to each individual of the population does not at this day exceed one acre and two-thirds of an acre, though it is computed there are still 6,000,000 acres cultivable, but not cultivated.

29. I propose now to consider the progress of South Australia in this respect as compared with the older colonies of New South Wales, Victoria, and Tasmania, as shown in the following Table:—

1856.	Date of Foundation of Colony.	Population.	Acres in Wheat.	Acres in other Crops.	Total Acres under Cultivation.
	A.D.				
New South Wales -	1788	286,873	106,124	78,891	185,015
Victoria - - -	1835	406,577	80,154	99,828	179,982
Tasmania - - -	1804	81,492	65,731	119,825	185,556
South Australia - -	1836	104,708	162,011	41,411	203,422
Total - -	- -	879,650	414,020	339,955	753,975

30. Those figures enable us to discern at a comprehensive glance how far Australia could have raised sufficient supplies of flour for her population in 1856. If we suppose an average crop of seventeen bushels per acre to have been raised from the above number of acres, the result would be 7,038,340 bushels or 153,007 tons of flour, computing 46 bushels to the ton. Taking the usual

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standard of eight bushels per annum per head as the consumption, we find the quantity of wheat tallying in a very remarkable manner with the actual number of the population, for whilst the amount of wheat would feed 879,792 individuals, the population, as shown in the above table, was 879,650.

31. Nevertheless, as there was a large importation of foreign wheat and flour, chiefly from Valparaiso, into Sydney and Melbourne during 1856, it is necessary to account in some way for those importations. The fact of the produce of the harvest of 1855–56 not being available at the commencement of 1856, whilst the previous harvest of 1854–55 had been very deficient, will in a great measure account for that which otherwise would be a striking anomaly, whilst it should also not be forgotten that the produce of the acres stated above to be under tillage during 1856 was not available till the current year, and that a much less breadth of land in proportion to the population had been in cultivation during 1855, a fact, however, which I am not in a position at present to prove positively by statistical returns from all the neighbouring colonies.

32. The increased and increasing supplies which South Australia is raising will enable her probably to export next year from 8,000 to 10,000 tons of flour more than during the current year, and will soon render the Australian continent entirely independent of foreign supplies of flour, notwithstanding the large augmentations which the general population is annually receiving.

33. Indeed the general apprehension, where any apprehension appears to be entertained, seems to be that the supplies from South Australia will soon not only overtake but far exceed the demand. I believe that there is no real risk of this, because, in the first place, the flour produced in this colony, being not merely the finest grown in Australia, but almost the finest in the world—a fact of which there is now abundant proof—besides its obtaining the first prize at the Great Exhibition in London, it commands a higher price than any other flour here by nearly 1*l.* 10*s.* per ton, and if facilities be afforded for transporting it at a moderate cost to the markets for its consumption, South Australia will necessarily be the last portion of this continent in which we can expect wheat cultivation to be abandoned.

34. There is good reason to hope that there will be a paying market in Europe for all surplus produce here. This is a very important point, because the cultivation which is undertaken and the prosperity which is created by the stimulus of high but variable prices, which in the case of food it would be sound policy to diminish as far as possible, rests on no solid or assured foundation. The very fact of increasing cultivation tending by increased supplies to lower prices, would in that case limit the extension of agriculture, and thereby retard the development of this province.

35. On the other hand, the best and most wholesome stimulus of steady industry is found in low prices, if subject to little variation. The waste and mismanagement which high but uncertain prices foster and protect, soon give place to the thrift and economical improvements which low profits render necessary. Such profits, however, to invite the investment of capital, must be certain, which is the case here compared with the neighbouring colonies. Therefore I learn with great pleasure from the principal exporter of South Australian flour, that he has this year shipped with profit to England twenty tons, the produce of this colony. He also expects that in ordinary years it will be profitable to export flour to England whenever the price here falls to 5*s.* per bushel. If the farmer can thereby be assured of never receiving less than that sum, I confidently believe that no bounds can as yet be reasonably predicted to the resources of this province.

36. The Banks have also expressed their willingness to make advances, and have actually done so on flour shipped to England from here, and with this resource to fall back on there is little probability of any competition in the neighbouring colonies preventing South Australia profitably contributing large supplies of flour to her neighbours; for it is clear that cultivation will be kept up longest and be most extensive in the province where the lowest prices will be longest found profitable. That is the true test of the permanent soundness of such undertakings.

37. The only limit as yet discoverable under the above circumstances to increased cultivation with profit, would appear to be the degree of facility afforded to the farmer for transmitting his bulky produce readily and cheaply

to the ultimate point of consumption. Twenty thousand pounds value in gold dust can be more easily transported from the diggings in Victoria to a shipping port, than one ton of flour can be carried five miles in some places, and during some seasons of the year.

38. If the distance be long and the roads bad, the cost of transport must at last either exceed the value of the article, or so considerably increase its price that despite of local advantages of climate and soil where it may have been raised, others who may have to contend with positive disadvantages of inferior climate and dearer labour, may be enabled by greater facility of transport to undersell the producer of an article, though much cheaper and better, at the place of its original production.

39. This is a question in which the consumer, in whatever part of these colonies he may reside, is the party most interested, and every facility of transport given to the producer here is consequently a direct advantage to the consumer, an advantage, moreover, the importance of which is more evidently felt and more keenly appreciated in proportion as the consumption of such article enters extensively into the necessary wants of daily life. Of course this observation, though applicable to many other articles, must be regarded as especially so to corn and flour. It is therefore just as much the interest of the consumer in Victoria and New South Wales that the farmer here should have cheap facilities of transport by land and water, as it is the interest of the South Australian farmer himself.

40. For these reasons, and having a deep conviction of its being impossible that any benefit can be exclusively enjoyed by one colony of this group without its being either directly or indirectly shared by the others, I have often felt surprise, as well as regret, at the expression of opinions betokening more or less jealousy on the part of one portion of this community towards another, for the English race settled in Australia is in reality but one community. A railroad, for example, from Melbourne to the diggings, or the Murray, is as much open to the use of South Australians as to the people of Victoria; and I believe one of the principal benefits which the latter will derive from it would be cheap transport for produce raised by South Australian farmers for Victorian consumers. If the South Australian competes successfully at present with the Victorian farmer residing near the place where his crop is to be consumed, and who is, moreover, protected against his distant rival, first, by the cost of freight to Melbourne, and next, by bad roads, steep hills, bottomless swamps, and often by dishonest carriers, I, for my part, do not anticipate the farmer here being less able to perform what he accomplishes now in spite of those impediments, when the latter shall have been removed, or at least greatly diminished.

41. I shall, however, pursue this subject no further here. I merely wish to point out that facilities of transport, important everywhere, are of vital consequence to the South Australian, for I admit that the agricultural and general progress of the province will otherwise find its limit at no distant day. At present I only wish to complete this sketch of the agricultural prospects of the colony by calling attention to the marked effect which such extensive cultivation produces, not merely on the character of the people, but on the actual appearance of the country. When the youngest of the Australian group of colonies, with only a seventh in 1856 of the population of the whole, raised nearly as much wheat as the two oldest colonies of New South Wales and Tasmania together, and when to this is added a widely diffused taste for planting and gardening, the general appearance which the country under these circumstances is rapidly assuming is, as might be expected, most remarkable, as well as pleasing; remarkable because the rich cultivation, substantial fencing, and numerous comfortable cottages which the traveller here sees, not merely near the capital, but distributed over the country to a considerable distance from Adelaide, north, south, and east, give such an old, settled, and English rural character to the scenery, that it is already difficult to realize, in some places, how very few years previously the fields which he sees waving with grain, and the gardens filled with vines, and trees loaded with the finest fruit, were tenanted only by the wild animals, and the almost wilder aborigines of the bush. The contrast in that respect between this colony and New South Wales and Victoria is the subject of frequent comment by visitors, who find that here the "country" is the principal and most pleasing, instead of being

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quite the secondary feature of the colony. The people too adopt it more thoroughly as their abiding home, in the true English sense of that word. On the whole, except Upper Canada, I know no colony where, in the general aspect of the country during a great portion of the year, and in the character and habits of the people, England is so likely in a few years to find herself more happily or more completely reproduced, as it were, than in South Australia. I shall conclude this review of the agricultural progress of the colony with the following table of prices of produce in the Adelaide market during 1856:—

——	Fine Flour per Ton of 2,000 lbs.	Wheat per Bushel.	Oats per Bushel.	Barley per Bushel.	Potatoes per Ton.	Hay per Ton.
	£	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	£	£ s.
Maximum -	26	9 6	7 0	5 6	22	3 10
Average -	21	8 3	5 9	4 0	9	2 10

Weight of prize cereals at the Agricultural show in Adelaide:—

Wheat, - - - 66 $\frac{6}{16}$ lbs. per bushel.
Oats, - - - 47 lbs. „
Barley, - - - 55 $\frac{4}{16}$ lbs. „

Pastoral Interests.

43. I have dwelt on the topics which a review of the agricultural interests of the colony suggested, because hitherto the subject appears not to have been treated as fully as its growing and peculiar importance deserves, but I cannot venture to occupy your attention with so detailed an analysis of the other topics which form the contents of the Blue Book. I have, however, already explained that, although the agricultural interest of the colony in its bearing on the character of the people, and its importance to the great mass of the inhabitants may be regarded as the preponderating interest and the mainstay of the colony, the pastoral produce forms an important item in the Table of Exports. The export of wool alone rose in 1856 to 8,236,221 lbs. (value 412,163*l.*) from 5,590,171 lbs. (value 283,479*l.*) in the preceding year.

44. I believe if there was not a blade of corn grown in South Australia, the colony would nevertheless figure respectably as a pastoral country, its prospects in that respect having rapidly improved, and being destined in all human probability to increase still more rapidly than heretofore. Country is now occupied beyond Mount Serle and close to Lake Torrens, which was formerly supposed to be hopelessly sterile, and permanent water has been discovered in several places, at Blanche Water, St. Mary's Pool, &c., &c., affording facility for pushing squatting stations to a distance of nearly 450 miles north of Adelaide. The enclosed map will illustrate this better than any description. At the same time new discoveries in a direction to the north-west between Lake Torrens and the Great Salt Lake, now named Lake Gairdner, afford good reason for supposing that extensive pastoral tracts extend from thence far into the interior of the continent.

45. An exploring expedition under Mr. Hack has lately returned, having discovered and in part actually surveyed nearly 4,000 square miles of available country in the western part of the province between Streaky Bay and Spencer's Gulf, whilst other discoveries of good country are reported stretching from Fowler's Bay beyond the western limit of the province. Applications for more than five millions of acres have been made for pastoral purposes in the last few months, and it is impossible to foresee any limit to the pastoral capabilities of the colony. This subject will, however, fall more properly within the topics for discussion when treating hereafter of the present year.

46. As it may be interesting to exhibit in one table the comparative condition of the pastoral interest in this and the adjoining colonies during the year 1856,

I have drawn up the following table, the accuracy of which may be relied on so far as it goes :—

—	Sheep.	Cattle.	Horses.
New South Wales -	7,736,323	2,023,418	168,928
Victoria - - -	4,641,548	666,613	47,832
South Australia - -	1,962,460	272,746	22,260
Tasmania - - -	1,674,987	88,608	18,019

Mines.

47. In the accompanying statistical tables (page 253) there is a list given of fifty-eight mines in this colony, of which only twelve were worked during 1856. They were all copper mines, except that at Strathalbyn, which yields copper and lead. Unlike the pastoral and agricultural interests, which not merely raise large produce for export, but also feed the population of the colony, the value of the mines can be pretty fairly tested by the amount of produce exported. In 1856 the mining produce exported was in value 416,840*l.*, and there is now little doubt of some portions of the country near Mount Serle being extremely rich in copper. Some mineral leases have lately been granted in that neighbourhood, and the reports which have reached me give room to hope that a great addition will be there made to the wealth of the colony.

48. As the Burra Burra Mine has proved one of the most fortunate money speculations ever entered into in any country, original *5l.* shares having been sold for *250l.*, and as it is the principal contributor to the export of mining produce, I annex the last report of the Directors, which gives the most accurate information on a subject of special interest to numbers in England as well as here.

Crown Lands.

49. I annex here a return of the Land Fund of 1856, as directed to be prepared in lieu of the more voluminous return heretofore transmitted. The total land revenue for the year was 250,991*l.*, consisting of the sum of 181,929*l.* proceeds of sale by auction of 133,785 acres at an average price of 1*l.* 7*s.* 2*d.* per acre, and the sum of 55,570*l.* paid for 53,666 acres, alienated by selection, pre-emptive right, and otherwise, at an average price of 1*l.* 0*s.* 10*d.* per acre, the difference 3,492*l.* consisting of rent of Crown lands and other items.

50. The following table gives the amount of the money received for land alienated for each year since 1850, inclusive :—

1850.	1851.	1852.	1853.	1854.	1855.	1856.
£ 90,385	£ 88,740	£ 99,081	£ 291,660	£ 383,469	£ 233,745	£ 235,460

51. The area of the province is supposed to contain nearly 200,000,000 acres, of which about 1,800,000 acres have been surveyed, and 1,576,384 had been sold at the beginning of this year. The Survey Department has been for many years extremely efficient, and there has always been a supply of surveyed land adequate to the demand. At this moment there are about 162,000 acres which, having been offered for sale at auction, are now open to all the world for selection at 1*l.* per acre. On the whole it would be difficult to afford greater facilities to intending purchasers than are already given in this colony.

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Imports and Exports.

52. The value of the imports and exports of the last three years, not including imports re-exported, and only giving as exports the produce of the colony, was as follows :—

—	Imports.	Exports.
	£	£
1854	1,925,771	694,422
1855	1,069,676	686,953
1856	1,099,156	1,398,367

53. The largest importation into this colony was that of 1854, but the deficient harvest of that year and over-importation reduced the imports of 1855 by more than 850,000*l.* below those of 1854, and it was not till the commencement of the present year that the colony could be said to have entirely recovered from the excessive importation of 1854. The balance of trade is now in a remarkably healthy state, and the increased legitimate production of the colony is progressing even from month to month in a most satisfactory manner.

54. The following were the principal articles, the produce of South Australia, exported during 1856 :—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Farm and dairy produce - - -	562,309	6	1
Bark - - - - -	2,345	0	0
Hides, skins, horns, and leather - -	1,546	0	0
Copper and copper ore - - -	404,811	0	0
„ and lead ore - - -	683	8	0
Regulus - - - - -	2,854	0	0
Specimens of natural history - -	134	0	0
Wine - - - - -	156	0	0
Wool - - - - -	412,162	0	0
Tallow - - - - -	1,242	0	0
Gold (2,017 oz.) - - - -	8,800	0	0
Miscellaneous - - - -	1,321	10	0
Total export, the produce of South Australia - - -	£1,398,367	4	1

55. I would observe that some of the articles in the above list may, perhaps, not correctly be said to be the produce of South Australia, though shipped from South Australian ports. The opening of the navigation of the Murray is beginning to make us exporters, in some degree, of New South Wales and Victorian produce. As a set off to which, a great portion of the pastoral and agricultural produce of the south-eastern portion of this province is shipped from Portland in Victoria.

River Murray.

56. This report would be very incomplete if I did not include in it some notice of the great river, which may be said to unite rather than to separate the three colonies of South Australia, New South Wales, and Victoria. In promoting the facilities of transit for goods and passengers by its waters, it is impossible to say which of the three colonies is most interested. I have already had the honour of reporting to you some results of a voyage which I made last year from the Goolwa to Albury, visiting Beechworth and the Ovens diggings. I transmitted some information at that time on the Murray traffic, and I shall here give a brief synopsis of what has been accomplished in creating and extending that traffic. I may premise, that in estimating the traffic up and down the river, my statements may not in some particulars agree with official returns, but I prefer in this matter relying on information supplied by merchants engaged in the trade and conversant with all the particulars.

57. The first commencement of the trade in the river Murray was in August 1853, the "Lady Augusta" steamer and "Eureka" barge having left the Goolwa that month on a trading voyage to the provinces of New South Wales and Victoria, as high as Swan Hill.

58. The traffic during the navigable season of that year consisted of 276 tons of goods, valued at about 25,000*l.*, taken up the river; and 1,362 bales of wool, worth about an equal amount, brought down.

59. During the season of 1854, 365 tons of goods were shipped up the river, valued 35,000*l.*; and 3,000 bales of wool were brought down, valued at 60,000*l.*

60. In the season of 1855, 700 tons of goods were forwarded up the river, valued at 50,000*l.*; and 2,700 gales of wool, worth about 55,000*l.*, brought down.

61. In 1856 the trade first commenced with the large population centered on the Ovens gold fields, situated about thirty miles from the nearest point on the river, and during that season 3,629 tons of goods were transported up the river, valued at about 250,000*l.*; whilst 2,370 bales of wool were conveyed down, vaued at 47,000*l.*

62. Up to the end of the season of 1856 great difficulties and expense attended the conveyance of goods between Adelaide and the river, as, owing to the supposed impracticability of navigating the sea-mouth, all articles had to be carried in coasting vessels between Port Adelaide and the inconvenient and dangerous roadstead of Port Elliot; the communication between which place and the vessels trading on the river was managed by means of a tramway seven miles in length, extending from Port Elliot to the Goolwa.

63. In consequence of the heavy cost of the mode of transit, and the great loss of property which annually occurred by shipwreck at Port Elliot, the Government early in 1857 ordered a survey of the sea entrance of the river, which was very ably and correctly carried out by Captain B. Douglas, the Naval Officer of the province; and the channel having been properly beaconed and buoyed, the R. M. N. Co., who were the parties principally interested in the river trade, purchased a screw steamer adapted for the purpose of running direct between Port Adelaide and the Goolwa, the lowest terminal point of the river steamers.

64. This steamer, called the "Corio," had been running for about three months, making a voyage every week with perfect regularity, to the great saving of expense, and the great convenience of the river traffic; when, unfortunately, she got ashore inside the bar, and there are fears entertained as to the possibility of getting her off.

65. The charge for freight, by steamer, from Port Adelaide to the Goolwa, was 30*s.* per ton, but could be made profitable at 20*s.* per ton. The river freight between Goolwa and Wahgumyah, the nearest point to the Ovens gold fields, and a distance by the river of 1,700 miles, is 9*l.* per ton, which might be profitably reduced to 5*l.* per ton, provided the river was cleared of impediments, and made navigable at all seasons of the year, instead of during only six months, as at present.

66. The carrying power on the river at present consists of ten steamers and ten barges, equal to an aggregate of 1,500 tons burthen, and 400 horse-power. And the trade up the river for the season 1857 will probably reach 5,000 tons; whilst about 3,000 bales of wool will be brought down.

67. It is, however, quite evident, that no scheme can so effectually promote the navigation of the Murray, and render the traffic at all times secure, or save an equal amount of time and distance, as connecting the port of Adelaide, which is central in its position, with some part of the Murray itself by railway. It is comparatively immaterial where such railway may strike the Murray, but it would, of course, be preferable that it should traverse and open up some portion of the country available for raising the supplies most in demand on the settlements near the Murray.

68. That which will be the main trunk railway of the province has already been completed to Gawler Town, about 36 miles from Port Adelaide, and will no doubt eventually be carried north according as there may be a fair prospect of thereby accelerating the settlement of that portion of the province. A branch from that trunk railway has been projected to the new township of "Blanche Town," near Moorundee, on the Murray; and if carried out, such a line would open up some very fine country north of Truro, besides directly connecting

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Adelaide with a vast internal water communication of at least 3,400 miles formed by the Murray and its tributaries, for it is computed that so much will ere long be rendered navigable at certain seasons.

69. In the meantime this Government is liberally assisting in the task of clearing the snags in the Murray. A boat with proper machinery for the purpose is now being built at Sydney, under the superintendence of Captain Caddel; and as the voyage to Albany from the Goolwa, a distance of 1,750 miles, was recently performed in twenty-one days, the further clearance of the river will probably shorten the voyage to fifteen days.

Shipping.

70. The following table exhibits the shipping inwards and outwards for 1856:—

—	Inward Tonnage.				Outward Tonnage.			
	Total.	Great Britain.	Colonial.	Foreign.	Total.	Great Britain.	Colonial.	Foreign.
1854	146,666	60,369	78,916	7,381	143,868	8,394	102,892	32,582
1855	105,842	55,040	40,163	10,639	106,969	6,382	65,068	35,519
1856	106,741	39,079	59,457	8,205	104,210	7,397	79,337	17,476

—	Number of Ships and Seamen.			
	Inwards.		Outwards.	
	Number of Ships.	Number of Seamen.	Number of Ships.	Number of Seamen.
1854	476	8,581	471	8,047
1855	339	5,870	337	5,567
1856	397	5,548	386	5,216

71. The accommodation at Port Adelaide for shipping of a large class, and such as it is now generally found most profitable to employ in the Australian trade, is still very deficient; though the operations of the Harbour Trust have considerably improved the old port. The arrival of a steam dredge from England and of an engineer of considerable experience in the deepening and improvement of harbours leads me to hope that I may next year have the pleasure of reporting increased accommodation for large vessels, and increased facilities of ingress and egress to and from the harbour. If the depth of water could at all times of tide be rendered sufficient to prevent large vessels of 1,000 tons from taking the ground, the accommodation otherwise at the port would generally be found adequate for the traffic, because there is no obstruction to extending the accommodation almost indefinitely by extending the wharves down the creek which now forms the harbour, and is many miles in length.

Revenue and Expenditure.

72. The statements of revenue are so mixed with receipts on account of loans and payments from one moiety of the Land Fund to the other, and again to the ordinary revenue under the old system, that it is not easy to separate the several items, so as to arrive at the actual amount for a series of years of the proceeds during each year of the Ordinary Revenue and Land Fund. I have directed a table exhibiting this information to be compiled, but unfortunately I was not aware of the want of it till too late to make use of it for this report.

73. I enclose, however, a very full comparative statement of the estimated and actual revenue and expenditure of the year 1856, to which I must refer you for

more particular details. I subjoin moreover a table of the total revenue and expenditure for the last three years:—

Year.	Total Revenue.	Total Expenditure.
	£	£
1854	844,010	630,812
1855	490,290	553,294
1856	724,315	680,149

74. The ordinary revenue for 1856 amounted to 205,423*l.*, and the actual receipts from the Land Fund reached 250,991*l.* The total proceeds of revenue for the year, irrespective of loans or other aids from any foreign source, were therefore 456,414*l.*, which amount will probably be considerably exceeded during the current year.

Public Works.

75. I shall not enter into this very extensive subject here, as I think it preferable not to encumber this report with matter into the details of which I shall hereafter have to enter when bringing before you the financial position of the colony in reference to loans already, either contracted or which the Government propose contracting for the completion and undertaking of railway and other extensive works. I shall merely observe that irrespective of a considerable outlay on railways, and 100,856*l.* expended on roads, streets, and bridges, there was 81,597*l.* expended by Government in various public works throughout the colony during 1856.

Postal.

76. The following return exhibits the number of ship and inland letters passing through the post here, with the income and expenditure of the department for 1856:—

Number of Post Offices.	Letters.		Newspapers.		Totals.		Income.	Expenditure.
	Ship.	Inland.	Ship.	Inland.	Letters.	Newspapers.		
							£	£
102	302,438	542,415	315,372	470,236	844,853	785,608	8,925	15,715

In addition to the above I have thought it expedient to call for a return of the number of letters and newspapers received from and despatched to Great Britain, Indian and Mediterranean ports, and the continent of Europe, during 1856. That return is important as bearing on the proportion which South Australia should contribute towards the maintenance of steam postal communication with Great Britain.

Place.	Received.		Despatched.	
	Letters.	Newspapers.	Letters.	Newspapers.
Great Britain - - -	78,056	131,506	77,723	92,907
Indian ports - - -	4,416	1,411	2,042	1,886
Mediterranean ports and Europe - - -	320	50	145	126
Total - - -	82,792	132,967	79,910	94,919

Telegraph.

77. I have much pleasure in calling your attention to the enclosed very satisfactory report of the extremely zealous and efficient Superintendent of Colonial Telegraphs, Mr. Todd. The federative advantages of a network of

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SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

electric telegraphs spread over the country, and hourly interchanging the wants and wishes of the inhabitants of this continent, must tend to create a unity of purpose and harmony of feeling which may hereafter have important political as well as commercial results.

78. Whether regarded as a necessary or as a luxury, it is gratifying to learn from experience here that the electric telegraph is self-supporting, and increasingly so the more it is extended. Its extension, therefore, to almost any degree may be considered within the limit of the colony's means. The importance, moreover, of telegraphic communication with England viâ India, the accomplishment of which may now be reasonably expected in a few years, must have an important and beneficial bearing on the possibility of cultivating wheat here for the English market. Rapid transmission of prices current there and here will greatly diminish the risk attending large shipments of that nature, and thus another step will be made towards establishing a moderate fixed price for his produce on which the farmer can count, irrespective of the speculative high and depressing prices which alternate so frequently in the colonial markets.

79. The lines of telegraph hitherto constructed here, whilst framed in a most satisfactory and substantial way, have nevertheless been more cheaply contructed than in any other Australian colony. In March next the communication between Adelaide and Melbourne will probably be complete. And already, including the line to the Goolwa, which is about to open, there are nearly ninety miles complete, and in working order, within the colony.

Climate and Diseases.

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80. I annex the Lunatic Asylum and Hospital returns for 1856. Exclusive of salaries, the cost of the hospital was 3,375*l.*, and the annual expense of each patient 51*l.* 3*s.*; whilst the total cost of the patients in the lunatic asylum was 1,968*l.*, and the annual cost of each 32*l.* 16*s.* 2*d.* The admissions to the hospital in 1856 were 553, the deaths 83. Admissions to the lunatic asylum 69, deaths 4; daily average number of patients, males 38, females 30.

81. I regret that the number of patients in the lunatic asylum should continue so considerable in proportion to the population. Such, I believe, has generally been found to be the case in these colonies, and I think there are sufficient exciting causes in separation from friends, and the novel as well as frequently distressing situations of immigrants and others arriving here, to account for the number of lunatics without ascribing it in any way to a peculiarity of the climate.

82. I am indebted to Mr. Todd for the enclosed meteorological table, which gives almost every particular connected with the weather for the eight months ended 30th of last June. It is certainly the most carefully compiled and most reliable document of the kind which has ever been transmitted from South Australia; and though six of the months which it gives belong to the present year, and the coldest months, July and August, are not included, I nevertheless do not withhold it, as I believe it, even in its present form, to be valuable. Accurate observations of the kind given in the enclosed table, are likely to be hereafter of great service to the agriculturist.

Religion.

83. There is no longer any aid given here by the State to any religious denomination whatever. Except in the distant country districts, I think the system works very well, and certainly true religion must be promoted by removing all cause of strife and jealousy between the adherents to different forms of belief.

84. In March 1855, when the population was only 85,189, the following were the relative proportions of the number of members of the leading denominations:—

Church of England.	Roman Catholic.	Wesleyan Methodists.	Church of Scotland.	Congregationalists, including Baptists and Independents.	Other Denominations.	Jews.	Lutherans.
33,812	8,335	11,178	5,264	5,355	7,118	405	6,151

The total places of worship were:—

—	1855.	1856.	Increase.
Places of worship -	191	218	27
Average attendance -	22,996	23,713	717

Aborigines.

85. In the estimate of population given at the commencement of this report, I have not included the aborigines, who are inserted in the last return, that of 1855, as being nearly as numerous as in 1850, viz., 3,540. This cannot be accurate, as wherever I have gone on the Murray or in the south-eastern district, or towards Port Lincoln in the west, and Port Augusta in the north, I have everywhere found the natives rapidly disappearing. There no longer exists even one native of the formerly numerous Adelaide tribe; and throughout the country I found amongst the squatters and stockholders a very general regret at the diminution in number of the natives, who of late years have made themselves extremely useful to the settlers in the distant parts of the province.

86. I think it evident that the aboriginal race is destined to melt away entirely. All attempts to civilize them appear to fail, or if successful, the native when "civilized" dies. It is impossible to conceive any person more qualified for the task of reclaiming and instructing the natives than Archdeacon Hale, now Bishop of Perth, and for a long time Superintendent of the Poonindie Mission, near Port Lincoln. With a noble and Christian ardour he devoted himself and his means exclusively for years to the one great object of his life, the conversion and instruction of the aborigines. The mission was founded by him, and the results are given in the enclosed very interesting report of the Rev. Mr. Hammond, a gentleman well adapted for the task he has undertaken, by his temper, perseverance, piety, and, I may add, by his nedical skill, which entitles his opinion to great weight on many subjects connected with the natives.

87. I have myself early this year visited Poonindie in company with the Lord Bishop of Adelaide and Mr. Hammond. I was much pleased with the quiet and orderly behaviour of the few natives then in the institution. Several of them could certainly read and write, but I confess I was not at all impressed with a high or even a moderate opinion of their intelligence as compared with that of the negroes, to whom they are physically and mentally altogether an inferior race.

88. The extraordinary fact that despite of the care bestowed on them, no less than 20 out of 60 inmates of this institution had died in fifteen months in passing through the civilizing process is, to my mind, when coupled with what is occurring amongst the natives in other parts of the country, quite satisfactory proof that the race is not destined to survive the advent of the white man. Whilst the negro lives, and even multiplies, side by side with the European, the Australian aborigines disappear as the line of civilization advances, and much in the same way as wild animals of the bush and game become scarce, and at last disappear, no one can well explain how or where, from the neighbourhood of settled districts, whether in America, here, or elsewhere, all over the world. It only remains for us who supersede them in the possession of this fair heritage, to see that in their decline they suffer nothing from want or ill treatment. I believe just complaints on that score are now rare, and I can testify to the general kindness which this singular race meets from the settlers, who, in fact, are even selfishly quite alive to the evil they sustain by their diminishing numbers.

I have, &c.

(Signed) RICHARD GRAVES MACDONNELL,
Governor.

The Right Hon. H. Labouchere, M.P.
&c. &c. &c.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

Enclosure 1 in No. 33.

Encl. 1. in No. 33. STATISTICS of SOUTH AUSTRALIA for 1856, compiled from authentic Official Records in the Chief Secretary's Office.

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No. 1.

RETURN of the POPULATION of SOUTH AUSTRALIA for the Years 1850 to 1856, inclusive.

Year ended 31st December.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Aborigines in Settled Districts (estimated at).
1850	35,963	27,737	63,700	3,730
1851	39,738	26,800	66,538	3,730
1852	36,310	32,353	68,663	3,670
1853	43,400	35,544	78,944	3,640
1854	50,517	42,028	92,545	—
1855	48,640	48,342	96,982	3,540
1856	53,086	51,622	104,708	—

NOTE.—The last census was taken on the 31st March 1855; the above statements are only approximate returns, compiled from the best available sources.

ANALYSIS of the POPULATION as shown by Census taken in the Years 1844, 1846, 1851, and 1855.

Dates on which Census was taken.	Number of each Age.														Married or Single.				Totals.		
	Males.							Females.							Males.		Females.				
	Under Two Years of Age.	Two and under Seven.	Seven and under Fourteen.	Fourteen and under Twenty-one.	Twenty-one and under Forty-five.	Forty-five and under Sixty.	Sixty and upwards.	Under Two Years of Age.	Two and under Seven.	Seven and under Fourteen.	Fourteen and under Twenty-one.	Twenty-one and under Forty-five.	Forty-five and under Sixty.	Sixty and upwards.	Married.	Single.	Married.	Single.	Males.	Females.	General Total.
1844. Feb. 26	890	1,459	1,322	922	4,432	457	44	834	1,434	1,241	866	2,996	281	18	3,026	6,500	3,032	4,638	9,526	7,670	17,366
1846. Feb. 26	1,019	2,143	1,606	1,088	6,111	629	74	953	2,101	1,460	981	3,696	410	49	3,847	8,823	3,811	5,839	12,670	9,650	22,390
1851. Jan. 1 -	2,151	4,734	4,778	3,847	17,106	2,293	400	2,231	4,592	4,472	3,945	10,707	1,526	257	10,664	24,638	10,842	16,895	35,302	27,737	63,700
1855. Mar. 31	3,081	6,689	6,984	4,903	17,855	3,496	712	3,230	6,682	6,798	6,024	15,591	2,620	524	15,038	28,682	15,795	25,674	43,720	41,469	85,821*

*In this total are included 632 persons not classified in the preceding columns, that number having been added for omissions and persons travelling.

No. 2.

COMPARATIVE RETURN of the Number of BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, and DEATHS registered in the PROVINCE of SOUTH AUSTRALIA during the Years 1851 to 1856 inclusive.

BIRTHS.

Year.	Males.	Females.	Totals.
1851	1,405	1,354	2,759
1852	1,431	1,296	2,727
1853	1,401	1,373	2,774
1854	1,728	1,723	3,451
1855	2,054	1,890	3,944
1856	2,336	2,152	4,488

MARRIAGES.

Solemnized.	1851.	1852.	1853.	1854.	1855.	1856.
By the Church of England - -	37	517	591	463	99	488
„ „ Scotland - -	4	9	53	30	28	35
„ Roman Catholics - -	20	61	113	137	145	201
„ German Lutherans - -	43	49	9	75	68	85
„ Congregational Independents -	43	47	56	90	86	66
„ Wesleyans - - -	31	24	46	44	79	118
„ Free Church - -	—	13	36	49	50	70
„ Christians - - - -	2	—	4	3	1	5
„ Deputy-Registrar, Adelaide -	7	2	2	10	—	—
„ Baptists - - - -	—	—	9	9	31	46
„ Deputy-Registrar, Port Lincoln	—	—	—	1	—	—
„ Bible Christians - - -	—	4	10	16	27	36
„ Friends - - - -	—	—	2	—	1	2
„ Moravians - - - -	—	—	—	—	1	2
„ Deputy-Registrar, Murray -	—	—	1	1	—	—
„ United Presbyterian - -	—	—	—	—	3	—
„ Jews - - - - -	2	—	7	—	2	1
„ District Registrars - -	—	—	—	—	13	17
Total - - -	189	726	1,020	928	634	1,172

DEATHS.

Year.	Age.														Males.	Females.	Totals.
	Under 2 Years.		Under 5 Years.		Under 10 Years.		Under 30 Years.		Under 50 Years.		50 Years & above.		Age unknown.				
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.			
1851	278	261	25	27	17	10	81	58	96	59	35	26	—	—	532	441	973
1852	301	256	31	37	19	17	68	54	86	70	34	34	17	4	595	503	1,098
1853	333	305	93	77	32	29	72	71	106	70	40	31	15	1	691	584	1,275
1854	411	357	51	61	20	22	65	74	86	74	64	39	18	4	715	631	1,346
1855	472	413	79	61	28	18	88	108	112	107	61	51	48	17	888	775	1,663
1856	332	278	29	30	19	9	69	71	82	56	73	33	54	12	658	489	1,147

NOTE.—This Return merely shows the number of Births, Marriages, and Deaths actually registered in the province; there are at present no satisfactory data for estimating the number of those unregistered.

No. 3.

RETURN of VESSELS INWARDS and OUTWARDS, and of IMMIGRATION and EMIGRATION, at PORT ADELAIDE, during the Years 1853 to 1856, inclusive.

INWARDS AND IMMIGRATION.

	1853.						1854.						1855.						1856.					
	Number of Ships.	Tons.	Men.	Passengers.			Number of Ships.	Tons.	Men.	Passengers.			Number of Ships.	Tons.	Men.	Passengers.			Number of Ships.	Tons.	Men.	Passengers.		
				Adults.		Children.				Adults.		Children.				Adults.		Children.				Adults.		Children.
				M.	F.					M.	F.					M.	F.					M.	F.	
Great Britain -	102	48,684	2,289	2,792	2,276	2,105	111	60,369	2,492	3,390	4,444	2,761	90	55,040	2,207	3,581	3,875	2,546	67	39,079	1,568	2,261	1,906	1,241
British Colonies -	304	75,983	5,152	10,544	1,017	723	339	78,916	5,731	4,431	928	712	221	40,163	3,181	2,623	659	451	307	59,457	3,639	7,690	671	546
Foreign States -	31	7,327	432	307	116	67	26	7,381	358	572	301	218	28	10,639	482	719	482	275	23	8,205	341	590	268	245
Totals - -	437	131,994	7,873	13,643	3,409	2,895	476	146,666	8,581	8,393	5,673	3,691	339	105,842	5,870	6,923	7,016	3,272	397	106,741	5,548	10,541	2,845	2,032

OUTWARDS AND EMIGRATION.

	1853.						1854.						1855.						1856.					
	Number of Ships.	Tons.	Men.	Passengers.			Number of Ships.	Tons.	Men.	Passengers.			Number of Ships.	Tons.	Men.	Passengers.			Number of Ships.	Tons.	Men.	Passengers.		
				Adults.		Children.				Adults.		Children.				Adults.		Children.				Adults.		Children.
				M.	F.					M.	F.					M.	F.					M.	F.	
Great Britain -	18	10,875	552	317	128	117	17	8,394	351	268	126	106	16	6,382	249	65	63	55	18	7,397	314	92	107	70
British Colonies -	368	98,698	6,067	8,106	1,696	1,410	382	102,892	6,579	3,128	1,168	743	254	65,068	4,111	2,587	1,121	594	332	79,337	4,310	3,027	1,549	725
Foreign States -	46	19,350	621	4	2	3	72	32,582	1,117	7	5	4	67	35,519	1,237	3	3	10	36	17,476	592	6	1	—
Totals - -	432	128,923	7,240	8,427	1,826	1,530	471	143,868	8,047	3,403	1,299	853	337	106,969	5,567	2,655	1,187	659	386	104,210	5,216	3,125	1,657	795

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

No. 4.

RETURN of IMMIGRATION and EMIGRATION at PORT ADELAIDE, during the Years 1853 to 1856, inclusive.

	1853.		1854.		1855.		1856.	
	Immigration.	Emigration.	Immigration.	Emigration.	Immigration.	Emigration.	Immigration.	Emigration.
GREAT BRITAIN—								
Bristol	9	—	3	—	—	—	8	—
Dundee	—	—	6	—	15	—	—	—
Falmouth	19	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Glasgow	21	—	53	—	1	—	—	—
Grangemouth	22	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Guernsey	48	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hebrides	192	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jersey	—	—	199	—	—	—	—	—
Leith	1	—	—	—	15	—	2	—
Liverpool	1,375	72	2,401	88	3,120	—	357	—
London	4,525	502	6,609	396	7,393	168	587	269
Plymouth	558	—	276	—	340	—	1,756	—
Southampton	967	—	564	—	1,118	—	2,698	—
Swansea	—	3	—	—	—	15	—	—
BRITISH COLONIES—								
Ceylon, Madras, and Bombay	21	44	2	79	4	77	4	26
Coringo	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cape Town	33	—	—	—	—	—	8	—
Hongkong	1	—	—	—	—	—	5,641	—
Mauritius	290	13	—	5	2	17	7	4
Moulmain	—	76	—	—	—	—	—	2
New Zealand	—	66	—	55	2	61	—	—
New South Wales	159	275	211	90	96	96	44	234
Port Leichnault	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Recherche Bay	—	—	—	6	—	—	—	—
Singapore	315	82	102	1	38	2	289	6
Victoria	10,962	10,420	5,122	4,670	3,275	3,996	2,430	4,956
Van Diemen's Land	65	35	113	31	47	29	46	22
Western Australia	55	50	500	17	269	24	438	51
FOREIGN PORTS—								
Arracan	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bally	—	—	6	—	—	—	—	1
Batavia	7	1	5	14	31	12	7	2
Bremen	15	—	—	—	110	—	—	—
Bordeaux	7	—	3	—	—	—	4	—
Boston	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Callao	—	—	—	4	—	2	—	—
Cochin	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
Guam	—	2	—	5	—	2	—	2
Gottenburgh	—	—	4	—	1	—	—	—
Hamburgh	335	—	1,076	—	1,327	—	840	—
Java	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—
Lombock	—	—	—	2	3	—	—	—
Manilla	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	2
Monte Video	41	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Shanghai	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sourabaya	76	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
San Francisco	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Valparaiso	—	—	—	1	4	—	—	—
Whampoa	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Macao	—	—	—	—	—	—	252	—
Totals	20,128	11,648	17,358	5,467	17,211	4,501	15,418	5,577
	11,648	—	5,467	—	4,501	—	5,577	—
Excess of Immigration	8,480	—	11,791	—	12,710	—	9,841	—

No. 5.

COMPARATIVE RETURN of the OFFICIAL VALUE of IMPORTS into and EXPORTS from SOUTH AUSTRALIA, during the Years 1852 to 1856, inclusive.

IMPORTS.

From	1852.	1853.	1854.	1855.	1856.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Great Britain	330,852 17 2	1,284,544 11 7	1,623,120 3 8	953,677 3 0	855,721 18 6
British Colonies	131,801 16 0	412,960 8 6	304,882 2 4	325,232 4 0	428,147 10 4
Foreign States	36,707 9 6	175,500 19 0	126,451 3 0	92,029 8 0	82,660 4 0
Totals	499,362 2 8	1,873,005 19 1	2,054,453 9 0	1,370,938 15 0	1,366,529 12 10
Imports re-exported	177,778 4 0	150,444 18 0	128,682 0 9	301,262 10 0	267,373 4 4
Imports consumed in the Colony	321,583 18 8	1,722,561 1 1	1,925,771 8 3	1,069,676 5 0	1,099,156 8 6

EXPORTS.

To	1852.	1853.	1854.	1855.	1856.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Great Britain*	391,414 0 0	385,492 15 0	273,393 0 0	449,284 0 0	633,380 10 0
British Colonies	520,743 1 0	489,914 17 0	546,777 0 9	536,906 10 0	1,029,855 18 5
Foreign States	2,520 0 0	6,633 0 0	2,934 0 0	2,025 0 0	2,504 0 0
Totals	914,677 1 0	882,040 12 0	823,104 0 9	988,215 10 0	1,665,740 8 5
Imports re-exported	177,778 4 0	150,444 18 0	128,682 0 9	301,262 10 0	267,373 4 4
Total Exports, the Produce of the Colony	736,898 17 0	731,595 14 0	694,422 0 0	686,953 0 0	1,398,367 4 1

* As it frequently occurs that the ships for Great Britain do not leave Port Adelaide until the commencement of the year succeeding that with the produce of which they are loaded, a return like the present (to the 31st December in each year), in which the value of the produce of one season is blended in uncertain proportions with that of another, is of little use for the purpose of contrasting the value of the produce of successive years.

No. 6.

COMPARATIVE RETURN of EXPORTS, the PRODUCE of SOUTH AUSTRALIA, during the Years 1853 to 1856, inclusive.

ARTICLE.	1853.		1854.		1855.		1856.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
		£ s. d.		£ s. d.		£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Animals, living—Horses	2	50 0 0	2	160 0 0	23	1,700 0 0	2	140 0 0
Sheep	—	—	—	—	170	150 0 0	—	—
Bacon and Hams	53 cwt. 3 qrs.	277 0 0	21 cwt.	130 0 0	—	—	72 cwt. 2 qrs.	346 0 0
Bark	—	330 0 0	—	845 0 0	136 tons	1,345 0 0	300 tons	2,345 0 0
Beef and Pork	34 cwt.	77 0 0	6 cwt.	12 0 0	—	—	—	—
Beer and Ale	2,772 gallons	399 0 0	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bones and Hoofs	—	140 0 0	—	196 0 0	9 tons	51 0 0	43 tons 15 cwt	202 0 0
Boots and Shoes	—	150 0 0	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bread and Biscuit	50 cwt.	75 0 0	2 cwt.	4 0 0	194 cwt.	735 0 0	1,037 cwt.	1,432 10 0
Bricks	594,777	3,187 0 0	35,000	175 0 0	—	—	—	—
Butter	1,191½ cwt.	6,583 0 0	—	5,562 0 0	—	1,231 0 0	338 cwt. 2 qrs.	2,278 0 0
Carts and Drays	6	180 0 0	1	42 0 0	—	—	1	40 0 0
Cheese	996¼ cwt.	4,583 0 0	—	266 0 0	—	154 0 0	75 cwt. 1 qr.	300 0 0
Corn—Barley	234½ qrs.	717 0 0	468 qrs.	1,745 0 0	10 qrs.	30 0 0	619 qrs.	1,326 0 0
Bran and Pollard	2,709¾ tons.	36,439 15 0	8,364¼ tons	59,781 10 0	1,863½ tons	31,239 0 0	3,073¾ tons	20,425 0 0
Oats	2,819¾ qrs.	11,340 0 0	2,630 qrs.	9,573 0 0	1,355½ qrs.	3,871 0 0	2,692 qrs.	6,298 18 9
Malt	32 qrs.	150 0 0	37½ qrs.	50 0 0	—	—	41 qrs.	201 0 0
Wheat	7,732½ qrs.	29,132 16 0	7,218 qrs.	29,349 0 0	1,057 qrs.	6,026 0 0	8,640 qrs.	32,004 0 0
Flour	7,671¾ tons.	179,514 0 0	7,770¾ tons	215,769 0 0	5,759 tons	195,234 0 0	22,372½ tons	496,316 13 4
Fruit	—	437 10 0	—	2,134 0 0	—	40 0 0	—	130 0 0
Hay	3,167¼ tons.	38,082 0 0	5,326½ tons	83,289 0 0	372½ tons	3,614 0 0	22 tons	169 0 0
Hides and Skins	2,283	444 0 0	—	350 0 0	—	457 0 0	—	727 0 0
Horns	10,750	79 0 0	—	—	—	71 0 0	16,482	119 0 0
Lead, pig	18 cwt.	36 0 0	—	—	16 cwt.	80 0 0	—	—
Leather	—	822 0 0	—	570 0 0	—	677 0 0	196	702 0 0
Lime	6,655 bushels	920 0 0	—	80 0 0	—	—	—	—
Miscellaneous	—	1,094 0 0	—	1,817 0 0	—	371 0 0	—	*9,664 10 0
Metals—Copper	24,303 c. 0 q. 8 lbs.	113,235 8 0	8,119 cwt.	35,312 0 0	12,255 cwt.	67,383 0 0	44,980 cwt.	248,460 0 0
Onions	409 cwt.	605 0 0	—	1,410 10 0	—	—	78½ tons	704 19 0
Ore—Copper	3,766 14/20 tons	63,112 0 0	3,247½ tons	56,784 0 0	4,039 tons	80,724 0 0	9,468 tons	156,351 0 0
Slag	—	—	68 tons	300 0 0	—	—	—	—
Lead	23 3/20 tons	361 0 0	22 tons	425 0 0	144 tons	3,650 0 0	35 tons	377 0 0
Plants and Seeds	—	10 0 0	—	—	—	150 0 0	—	306 8 0
Potatoes	1,450 cwt.	1,071 10 0	—	2,432 0 0	—	5 0 0	68 tons	377 5 0
Regulus	—	—	32 tons	2,310 0 0	63½ tons	3,720 0 0	71 tons	2,854 0 0
Salt	15 tons	75 0 0	16 tons	162 0 0	—	—	—	—
Specimens of Natural History	—	249 0 0	—	180 0 0	—	40 0 0	—	134 0 0
Tallow	318 c. 3 q. 25 lbs.	496 0 0	257 cwt.	533 0 0	175 cwt.	393 0 0	585 cwt. 2 qrs.	1,242 0 0
Whalebone	20 cwt.	80 0 0	—	100 0 0	21 cwt.	62 0 0	7 cwt. 3 qrs. 3 lbs.	75 0 0
Wine	82 gallons	29 0 0	480 gallons	155 0 0	880 gallons	271 0 0	334 gallons	156 0 0
Wood—Manufactured	—	100 0 0	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sawn, Deals, &c.	108 loads	840 0 0	—	—	—	—	—	—
Shingles and Laths	129,500	118 0 0	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wool	4,607,281 lbs.	236,019 15 0	3,463,760 lbs.	182,419 0 0	5,590,171 lbs.	283,479 0 0	8,236,221 lbs.	412,163 0 0
Totals		731,640 14 0		694,422 0 0		686,953 0 0		1,398,367 4 1

* Including 2,017 oz. of gold, value 8,800*l*.

No. 7.

COMPARATIVE RETURN of the ORDINARY REVENUE and EXPENDITURE for the Years 1853 to 1856, inclusive.

REVENUE.

—	1853.	1854.	1855.	1856.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Customs	171,299 3 11	161,294 11 4	129,501 10 10	152,135 19 3
Port and Harbour Due	—	106 16 9	889 9 9	2,048 4 1
Rents (exclusive of Land)	1,072 19 9	825 15 0	1,141 0 0	1,133 4 5
Licences	7,659 0 0	9,227 17 0	10,611 8 0	11,222 15 0
Taxes	727 18 9	489 18 6	556 13 3	717 0 9
Postage	8,684 19 5	7,477 4 11	7,841 6 8	8,925 11 6
Fines, Forfeitures, and Fees of Court.	4,429 3 1	5,114 12 3	5,789 19 11	7,740 19 3
Fees of Office	7,513 6 2	9,116 16 9	8,214 6 8	8,371 4 2
Government Vessels	—	109 16 4	—	—
Sales of Government Property	1,971 17 11	931 4 8	1,021 6 8	2,905 1 9
Reimbursements in aid of Expenses.	969 12 7	3,011 4 10	3,892 5 1	2,002 10 1
Miscellaneous Receipts	2,183 8 10	1,547 13 7	10,365 18 10	2,522 8 11
Interest, Exchange, &c.	2,385 0 0	—	—	2,262 12 10
Gold Revenue	—	687 9 11	231 10 10	9 11 8
Port Elliot Railway	—	833 6 7	1,267 11 11	2,646 8 2
Telegraph	—	—	—	366 6 7
Loans	—	104,655 5 0	45,700 0 0	207,900 0 0
Repayments from Immigration Fund	45,000 0 0	144,000 0 0	4,908 18 10	*413 12 1
Total	253,896 10 5	449,429 13 5	231,933 7 3	413,323 10 6

EXPENDITURE.

—	1853.	1854.	1855.	1856.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Establishments	49,619 10 0	116,278 18 5	177,536 7 9	149,520 6 2
Pensions, Retired Allowances, and Gratuities.	350 0 0	450 0 0	611 15 2	1,239 2 0
Revenue Services	5,229 12 6	—†	—†	—†
Administration of Justice	536 0 7	729 12 6	803 14 9	955 19 0
Ecclesiastical	Discontinued.			
Charitable Allowances	1,848 6 4			
Education	7,468 9 9			
Hospitals	3,040 2 2			
Police and Gaols	4,893 15 1	—†	—†	—†
Rent	767 6 7			
Transport	539 6 0			
Conveyance of Mails	3,921 4 3			
Works and Buildings	4,566 19 8	30,564 8 10	29,440 7 4	48,323 12 1
Roads, Streets, and Bridges	38,823 5 0	200,065 16 2	35,815 8 10	
Miscellaneous	26,648 5 6	29,549 8 5	14,929 3 7	12,114 15 8
Interest	535 10 0	15,650 0 0	15,358 2 10	19,719 9 9
Government Vessels	1,094 12 3	—†	—†	—†
Immigration	3,000 0 0	—	—	—
Total	153,272 5 8	393,288 4 4	274,495 0 3	231,873 4 8

* Repayment of expenses chargeable to Immigration Fund.

† Included in Establishments.

No. 8.

STATEMENT showing the Amount of the REVENUE and EXPENDITURE of the PROVINCE for the Years 1851 to 1856, inclusive.

1851.

—	Amount of Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Ordinary - - - - -	127,046 18 1	143,981 10 5
Land Fund - - - - -	95,511 16 11	41,524 10 5
Total - - - -	222,558 15 0	185,506 0 10

1852.

	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Ordinary, 102,325*l.* 4*s.* 1*d.* - - - }	122,036 6 6	104,006 5 7
Gold, 19,711*l.* 2*s.* 5*d.* - - - - }		
Land Fund - - - - -	121,137 16 5	36,041 11 3
Total - - - -	243,174 2 11	140,047 16 10

1853.

	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Ordinary, 208,896*l.* 10*s.* 5*d.* - - - }	270,321 11 3	170,598 5 1
Aid from Land Fund, 45,000*l.* - - - }		
Gold, 16,425*l.* 0*s.* 10*d.* - - - - }		
Land Fund - - - - -	314,432 9 5	69,185 11 9
Grant to Ordinary Revenue - - -	—	45,000 0 0
Total - - - -	584,754 0 8	284,783 16 10

1854.

	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Ordinary, including Gold, 200,774*l.* 8*s.* 5*d.* - }	449,429 13 5	393,288 4 4
Loans, 104,655*l.* 5*s.* - - - - }		
Aid from Land Fund, 144,000*l.* - - }		
Land Fund - - - - -	394,581 6 3	93,524 14 9
Grant to Ordinary Revenue - - -	—	144,000 0 0
Total - - - -	844,010 19 8	630,812 19 1

1855.

	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Ordinary, including Gold, 181,324*l.* 8*s.* 5*d.* - }	186,233 7 3	274,495 0 3
Repayment from Immigration Fund, 4,908*l.* 18*s.* 10*d.* }		
Land Fund* - - - - -	258,356 13 3	163,077 7 4
Loans - - - - - -	45,700 0 0	115,722 9 9
Total - - - -	490,290 0 6	553,294 17 4

1856.

	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Ordinary, including Gold, 205,009*l.* 18*s.* 5*d.* - }	205,423 10 6	231,873 4 8
Repayment from Immigration Fund, 413*l.* 12*s.* 1*d.* }		
Land Fund* (including Transfer 60,000*l.* from Immigration Fund to Crown Moiety.)	310,991 11 6	227,734 1 10
Loans - - - - - -	207,900 0 0	220,542 9 9
Total - - - -	724,315 2 0	680,149 16 3

* Exclusive of Land and Emigration Commissioners' accounts.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

No. 9.

COMPARATIVE RETURN relative to the DISPOSAL of the CROWN LANDS of SOUTH AUSTRALIA, during the Years 1850 to 1856, inclusive.

Date.	Quantity of Land sold, in Acres.	Average Price per Acre.	Mode of Sale.	Total Amount of Purchase Money. Received in England.	Total Amount of Purchase Money. Received in South Australia.	Proportion of Purchase Money received in each Year.
		£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1850	41,170	1 11 $9\frac{3}{4}$	Auction -	1,314 10 0	89,071 8 2	90,385 18 2
	23,179	1 0 0	Fixed price			
1851	40,192¼	1 3 $4\frac{1}{2}$	Auction -	1,098 3 0	86,642 12 0	88,740 15 0
	42,397	1 0 0	Fixed price			
1852	33,911 $\frac{45}{160}$	1 7 $3\frac{1}{10}$	Auction -	1,021 12 0	98,059 8 0	99,081 0 0
	52,761	1 0 0	Fixed price			
1853	125,658 $\frac{44}{160}$	1 12 $3\frac{8}{10}$	Auction -	800 0 0	290,860 1 0	291,660 1 0
	87,663	1 0 $2\frac{4}{10}$	Fixed price			
1854	173,974 $\frac{9}{160}$	1 18 $3\frac{17}{20}$	Auction -	729 8 0	382,740 5 3	383,469 13 3
	39,951	1 2 $0\frac{3}{10}$	Fixed price			
1855	124,564 $\frac{69}{160}$	1 9 $10\frac{3}{10}$	Auction -	880 8 0	232,864 13 0	233,745 1 0
	47,046	1 0 $3\frac{1}{10}$	Fixed price			
1856	133,785 $\frac{18}{160}$	1 6 $10\frac{3}{10}$	Auction -	400 0 0	235,060 3 0	235,460 3 0
	53,666	1 0 $9\frac{3}{10}$	Fixed price			

No. 10.

RETURN of the Number of PLACES of WORSHIP of each DENOMINATION in SOUTH AUSTRALIA, specifying the ACCOMMODATION and average CONGREGATION of each, during the Years 1855 and 1856.

Denomination.	Number of Places of Worship. 1855.	Number of Places of Worship. 1856.	Adapted to contain. 1855.	Adapted to contain. 1856.	Average Congregation. 1855.	Average Congregation. 1856.
Church of England - -	26 *10	28 *9	5,828	6,602	3,840	4,215
„ Rome - - -	8	11 *1	2,470	3,320	1,430	2,140
„ Scotland - -	†4	†4	750	750	200	200
Free Presbyterians - -	5 *1	6	1,504	1,760	1,158	1,205
Congregationalists (Independents and Baptists) - - -	24 *9	29 *9	4,642	5,280	2,938	3,256
Wesleyans - - -	45 *6	38 *24	9,410	7,729	8,895	7,056
Bible Christians - - -	22 *6	23 *4	2,830	2,870	1,695	1,665
Christians - - -	4	4	900	910	470	510
Primitive Methodists - -	1	2	250	550	90	350
Lutheran Church - - -	13 *3	13 *6	3,178	3,688	1,950	2,621
Society of Friends - -	1	2	100	190	100	30
Jewish Congregation - -	1	1	140	140	30	60
Other denominations, and unspecified - - - -	2	3 *1	230	670	200	405
Total - -	156 *35	164 54	32,232	34,459	22,996	23,713

Total Number of Places of Worship for 1855, 191; and for 1856, 218.

* Rooms and buildings temporarily used as places of worship.
† Three of these churches were without a minister during 1855 and 1856, but two have recently arrived.

The information contained in this Return has been obtained from the Ministers of the several Denominations, and may therefore be considered correct.

No. 11.

COMPARATIVE RETURN of SUNDAY SCHOOLS in the Province of SOUTH AUSTRALIA, and of the average Number of SCHOLARS attending them, during the Years 1846, 1847, 1848, 1850, 1853, 1854, 1855, and 1856.

Year.	Number of Schools.	Number of Scholars.				Total Average Number of Scholars.
		European.		Native.		
		Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	
1846	24	560	511	38	31	1,140
1847	32	930	918	50	28	1,926
1848	45	1,300	1,205	40	18	2,563
1850	66	1,700	1,605	31	18	3,354
1853	59	1,509	1,565	32	9	3,115
1854	103	2,712	2,799	—	—	5,511
1855	114	3,263	3,386	—	—	6,649
1856	130	3,631	3,991	—	—	7,622

No Returns made up in 1849, 1851, and 1852.

The information in the above Return has been obtained from the various Ministers in the Province, and may therefore be presumed to be correct.

No. 12.

RETURN of the Number of DAY SCHOOLS in the Province to which GOVERNMENT AID has been afforded, and of CHILDREN attending the same, showing also the Amounts paid to the TEACHERS under Ordinances No. 11 of 1847, and Act No. 20 of 1851.*

Years ending 31st December.	Number of Schools.	Number of Scholars.			Amount of Government Aid.
		Male.	Female.	Total.	
					£ s. d.
1849	27	540	308	848	707 10 0
1850	64	1,188	679	1,867	1,556 6 0
1851	115	1,933	1,098	3,031	2,515 13 4
1852 {	101	1,355	1,106	2,461	827 8 4†
	69	1,832	1,451	3,283	3,089 15 10
1853	111	2,801	2,472	5,273	6,718 6 8‡
1854	125	3,008	2,456	5,464	8,538 15 0
1855	138	3,273	2,766	6,039	9,616 2 10
1856	147	3,594	2,922	6,516	8,979 0 2

* Act No. 20 of 1851 came into force on the 1st May 1852.

† Paid under Ordinance No. 11 of 1847; total amount of aid in 1852, 3,917*l.* 4*s.* 2*d.*

‡ During the years 1853, 1854, and 1855, teachers received a gratuity of 50 per cent., and during 1856 of 25 per cent., which is included in the above amounts.

The Government possesses but very imperfect information respecting the number of Schools in the Colony, the teachers of which have not received aid from the State; they may, however, for 1856, be presumed to be about two-fifths of the whole number, with pupils in about the like proportion.

No. 13.

RETURN showing the Total Number of LETTERS and NEWSPAPERS passing through the POST in the Province of SOUTH AUSTRALIA, distinguishing SHIP from INLAND, during the Years 1850 to 1856, inclusive.

Years.	Number of Post Offices.	Letters.		Newspapers.		Total.		Income.	Expenditure.
		Ship.	Inland.	Ship.	Inland.	Letters.	Newspapers.		
								£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1850	63	105,820	160,768	178,536	214,641	266,588	393,177	5,413 9 6	4,026 5 8
1851	72	122,901	241,694	216,657	301,065	364,595	517,722	6,805 5 10	4,843 17 5
1852	69	180,517	172,501	272,706	201,819	353,018	474,525	7,270 19 4	5,615 16 10
1853	62	233,450	182,923	292,306	210,412	416,373	502,718	8,684 19 5	7,641 8 8
1854	75	268,868	284,283	322,214	335,562	553,151	657,776	7,477 4 11	9,558 16 7
1855	87	270,778	405,509	328,766	466,275	676,287	795,041	7,841 6 8	15,032 17 5
1856	102	302,438	542,415	315,372	470,236	844,853	785,608	8,925 11 6	15,715 18 9

No. 14.

RETURN of the NUMBER of PATIENTS treated in the GOVERNMENT HOSPITAL during the Years 1850 to 1856, inclusive.

YEARS.	Admitted on payment of Fees.	Admitted without Fees.	Discharged.	Died.	Fees of Admission.
1850	15	395	306	61	2*s.* per diem.
1851	25	388	291	69	,,
1852	33	342	260	65	,,
1853	78	270	275	63	,,
1854	110	467	448	65	,,
1855	64	542	472	81	,,
1856	54	499	387	83	,,

No. 15.

RETURN of the NUMBER of PATIENTS confined in the LUNATIC ASYLUM during the Years 1850 to 1856, inclusive.

YEARS.	Admitted on payment of Fees.	Admitted without Fees.	Discharged.	Died.	Fees of Admission.
1850	1	8	9	2	2*s.* per diem.
1851	4	5	5	1	,,
1852	7	11	5	1	,,
1853	7	44	6	5	,,
1854	6	52	15	7	,,
1855	3	20	17	6	,,
1856	7	62	29	4	,,

No. 16.

RETURN of the NUMBER of PUBLICANS' LICENCES granted in SOUTH AUSTRALIA from 1850 to 1856, inclusive.

YEARS.	Publicans' General Licences.				Wine and Beer Licences.				Storekeepers' Licences.				Total Amount.		
	Number.	Amount.			Number.	Amount.			Number.	Amount.					
		£	*s.*	*d.*		£	*s.*	*d.*		£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
1850	197	4,925	0	0	1	12	0	0	12	60	0	0	4,967	0	0
1851	293	7,325	0	0	3	36	0	0	7	35	0	0	7,396	0	0
1852	235	5,875	0	0	3	36	0	0	6	30	0	0	5,941	0	0
1853	286	7,150	0	0	2	24	0	0	16	80	0	0	7,229	0	0
1854	324	8,100	0	0	1	12	0	0	36	180	0	0	8,292	0	0
1855	376	9,400	0	0	3	36	0	0	59	295	0	0	9,731	0	0
1856	395	9,875	0	0	10	120	0	0	68	340	0	0	10,335	0	0

No. 17.

COMPARATIVE RETURN of PUBLIC HOUSES in the PROVINCE of SOUTH AUSTRLIA in the Years 1850 to 1856, inclusive.

LOCALITY.	Number in the Year.						
	1850.	1851.	1852.	1853.	1854.	1855.	1856.
Adelaide - - - - - - -	76	96	89	99	101	109	114
Port Adelaide and Albert Town - -	11	12	21	20	18	16	18
Country (including Port Lincoln) - -	110	185	125	167	205	251	263
Total - - -	197	293	235	286	324	376	395

No. 18.

RETURN of REPUTED MINES in the PROVINCE at the close of the Year 1856.

NAME OF MINE OR LOCALITY.	Description.	Distance in a direct Line from Adelaide.	Bearings from Adelaide.
Adelaide	Copper	12	N.E. by E.
Barossa (Royal Mining Company)	,,	22	N.E.
Belvidere	—	54	N. by E.
Bon Accord	Copper	90	N. by E.
Breadalbane	,,	28	S.E. by S.
*Bremer Mines	,,	25	E.
*Burra Burra	,,	90	N. by E.
Chambers's Mine	Copper and Lead	10	S.
*Charlton Mines	Copper	136	N. by W.
Currency Creek Mine	,,	40	S. by E.
Dutton's Mine	,,	82	N. by E.
Emu Flats	,,	76	N. by W.
Enterprise Mining Company	,,	38	E. by N.
Franklin Harbour Mine	,,	130	N.W. by W.
Glenalbyn	,,	28	S.E. by E.
Glen Osmond	Lead	4	S.E.
Greenock Creek Mine	Copper	35	N.N.E.
*Kanmantoo	,,	25	E.S.E.
*Kapunda	,,	50	N.N.E.
Kapunda (North)	,,	50	N.N.E.
*Karkulto	,,	74	N. by E.
Lyndoch Valley	,,	28	N.E. by N.
Menkoo	,,	35	E.
Montacute	,,	10	E.N.E.
Mount Remarkable	,,	160	N. by W.
Morphett's (Section 1484)	,,	51	N.N.E.
Para Mine	,,	25	N.E. by N.
Paringa	,,	25	E.S.E.
Phœnix (Tothill's Gap)	,,	60	N.
Phillips's (Section 1507, Rapid Bay)	Copper and Lead	49	S.S.W.
*Pine Hut	Copper	50	N.E.
Poonawurta	,,	42	N.E.
Port Lincoln (Mount Liverpool)	,,	170	W.
*Preamimma	,,	29	E.S.E.
Prince Albert's Mine	,,	9	E.N.E.
Princess Royal	,,	82	N. by E.
Provincial Mining Association	Lead	5	S.E.
*Reedy Creek	Copper	35	E.N.E.
River's Edge	Lead	9	E.
*Strathalbyn	Copper and Lead	28	S.E. by S.
Union Mining Company	Lead	4½	S.E.
Victoria	Gold	10	E.N.E.
Wakefield	Copper	70	N.
Wheal Acraman	,,	10	E.N.E.
,, Barton	,,	50	N.N.E.
,, Emma	Silver Lead	—	—
,, Fanny	Copper	32	E.S.E.
,, Fortune	,,	25	E.
,, Friendship	,,	25	E.
,, Gawler	Lead	4	E.S.E.
,, Grainger	Silver Lead	5	S.E.
,, Harmony	Copper	25	E.
,, Maria	,,	25	E.
,, Margaret	Lead	26	E.S.E.
,, Mary	Copper	25	E.S.E.
,, Prosper	,,	25	E.
*Worthing	,,	14	S.S.W.
Yorke's Peninsula	,,	56	W.N.W.

NOTE.—Those marked * were in work at this date.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

No. 19.

COMPARATIVE RETURN of MANUFACTORIES and WORKS in the Province of SOUTH AUSTRALIA for the Years 1850, 1853, 1854, and 1856.

Description of Work.	Number in 1850.	1853.	1854.	1856.
Barilla Manufactories	2	1	1	2
Boat-builders	6	2	6	12
Boiling-down Establishments	2	—	1	1
Breweries	18	18	23	26
Candle-makers	8	6	6	13
Cloth and Woollen Manufactory	1	—	—	—
Coach Manufactories	4	4	16	8
Flour Mills—Steam	17	33	42	63
Wind	8	3	5	3
Water	2	4	6	4
Founderies—Brass	2	—	—	3
Brass and Iron	4	5	5	6
Type	—	1	1	—
Ginger-beer makers	4	15	21	23
Hat-makers	2	2	2	2
Machine Manufactories	6	2	19	15
Maltsters	2	16	10	9
Mattress-makers	3	10	15	7
Organ-builders	1	1	3	2
Pianoforte-makers	1	1	2	1
Potteries	2	1	6	2
Saw Mills	—	—	5	12
Ship-builders	6	3	5	—
Smelting Works	8	5	4	7
Snuff and Tobacco Manufactories	2	—	—	—
Soap and Candle Manufactories	6	—	7	8
Soap-makers	—	5	3	1
Soda-water makers	3	6	4	11
Tanneries	10	14	15	22
Watch and Clock-makers	2	20	27	32
Waterworks	3	2	3	3

No Returns were collected for the years 1851, 1852, and 1855.

No. 20.

COMPARATIVE RETURN of the Quantity of LAND under Cultivation in the Years 1847, 1848, 1849, 1850, 1854, and 1856, inclusive.

Crops.	Acres under Cultivation in 1847.	1848.	1849.	1850.	1854.*	1856.
Wheat	25,920	29,737	35,185	41,807¼	89,945¼	162,011½
Barley	5,840	8,479½	5,751½	4,029¼	6,454¼	7,828
Oats	2,946½	3,977½	1,470½	2,112	4,359½	2,822
Maize	161½	4,602¾	6¾	37⅜	43¾	66¾
Potatoes	381	595¾	875	1,785½	1,712	2,379
Garden and Orchard	993¼	1,300¼	1,497	1,372¼	2,974¼	4,148½
Vineyard	198	219⅛	197¾	282¾	409¾	753½
Hay	— †	—	—	13,302½	23,402¼	22,516½
Other Crops	— ‡	—	—	—	391½	897½
Totals	36,440¼	48,911⅞	44,983½	64,728½	129,692½	203,423¼

* No Returns were collected for the years 1851, 1852, 1853, and 1855. † No Return was made of the number of Acres cropped with Hay prior to 1850. ‡ No Return was made of the Miscellaneous Crops prior to 1854.

No. 21.

RETURN of STOCK in the COLONY, December 31st, 1856.

	Sheep.	Lambs.	Total Sheep and Lambs.	Cattle.	Horses.	Goats.	Pigs.
Running north of Adelaide, exclusive of those depasturing in the Hundreds and District Councils	596,082	151,645	747,727	66,557	2,569	1,677	27,594
Running in the South-eastern District, including those depasturing on the south sides of Lakes Victoria and Albert	421,891	115,662	537,553	80,185	2,674		
Running in the District of Port Lincoln, including Franklin Harbour	96,570	35,800	132,370	4,640	277		
Running on Yorke's Peninsula	63,000	19,000	82,000	920	198		
Running on the Murray, including the Hundred of the Murray	65,352	17,996	83,348	20 360	1,912		
Running on Flinders, Kangaroo, and the Islands in Spencer's Gulf	8,557	2,300	10,857	—	—		
Running within the Hundreds and District Councils, exclusive of the Hundred of the Murray	300,000	68,605	368,605	100,084	14,630		
Grand Total	1,551,452	411,008	1,962,460	272,746	22,260	1,677	27,594

NOTE.—The Hundred of the Murray being a narrow strip on both sides of the River, and occupied almost exclusively by the holders of the runs at the back of the Hundred, it is not possible to separate the stock depasturing there.

No. 22.

RETURN of PASTURAGE LEASES granted under the Provisions of the ORDER in COUNCIL of the 19th day of June 1850.

Leases granted for a Term of Fourteen Years for Lands without the Hundreds.

Period from which the Leases take Date.	Number of Leases granted.	Extent of Land comprised in the Leases, in square Miles.	Annual Amount of Rent payable under the Leases.
			£ s. d.
1st July 1851 - - -	234	14,017	8,288 15 0
1st January 1852 - - -	8	304	152 0 0
1st July 1852 - - -	4	140	70 0 0
1st January 1853 - - -	9	453	226 10 0
1st July 1853 - - -	38	1,402	701 10 0
1st January 1854 - - -	48	2,068	1,034 0 0
1st July 1854 - - -	29	1,008	504 0 0
1st January 1855 - - -	16	739	369 10 0
1st July 1855 - - -	21	945	472 10 0
1st January 1856 - - -	44	1,868	934 0 0
1st July 1856 - - -	34	1,256	628 0 0
Total - - -	485	24,200	13,380 15 0

Of the waste lands granted under pasturage leases, taking date from the 1st July 1851, 1,705¼ square miles have been resumed—75¼ for the purpose of sale, and 1,630 square miles for the purpose of creating hundreds. The reduction in the rental, consequent on the resumption of the lands, is 993*l.* 15*s.*, making the total amount of rent receivable for the year 1856, 12,387*l.*

Annual Leases granted for Lands within the Hundreds.

Period for which the Leases were granted.	Number of Leases granted.	Extent of Land comprised in the Leases.	Amount of Rent received.
			£ s. d.
From 1st July 1851 to 30th June 1852 -	51	1,294	1,294 0 0
From 1st July 1852 to 30th June 1853 -	48	1,125	1,125 0 0
From 1st July 1853 to 30th June 1854 -	43	970	970 0 0
From 1st July 1854 to 30th June 1855 -	28	672	672 0 0
From 1st July 1855 to 30th June 1856 -	13	228	228 0 0
From 1st July 1856 to 30th June 1857 -	38	1,399	866 0 0
Total - - - -	221	5,688	5,155 0 0

The extent of land granted under annual leases, during the year 1856, has considerably increased, in consequence of six new hundreds being created in the County of Gawler.

No. 23.

AVERAGE PRICE of FARM PRODUCE at ADELAIDE during the Years 1850 to 1856, inclusive.

Years.	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.	Potatoes.	Hay.	Butter, Fresh.	Cheese.
	Per Bushel.	Per Bushel.	Per Bushel.	Per Ton.	Per Ton.	Per Pound.	Per Pound.
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
1850	3 10	4 0	4 6	5 10 0	3 0 0	1 6	0 9
1851	6 4	7 6	5 0	5 5 0	4 0 0	1 5	0 8½
1852	6 6	4 9	7 0	15 0 0	5 0 0	1 4	0 9½
1853	8 1½	8 0	10 6	17 0 0	7 5 0	2 0	1 0
1854	11 10½	9 1½	8 4½	35 0 0	9 5 6	2 3	1 5½
1855	15 6	7 6	7 0	23 15 0	7 12 0	2 2	1 0
1856	8 0	4 6	5 1	6 12 0	3 7 6	1 5½	0 7¾

No. 24.

RETURN of PRICES paid for BREAD and FRESH MEAT by the COMMISSARIAT at ADELAIDE, for the Years 1850 to 1856, inclusive.

Year.	Bread.	Fresh Meat.
1850	1 5/16*d.* per lb.	1 5/16*d.* per lb.
1851	1¼*d.* per lb.	1 1/16*d.* and 1½*d.* per lb.
1852	2*d.* per lb.	1½*d.* and 1¼*d.* per lb.
1853	2½*d.*, 2¾*d.*, and 3*d.* per lb.	2*d.*, 4*d.*, and 5*d.* per lb.
1854	3*d.* and 3½*d.* per lb.	5½*d.* and 4½*d.* per lb.
1855	3½*d.*, 3¾*d.*, 4½*d.*, and 2*d.* per lb.	5*d.*, 4*d.*, and 3½*d.* per lb.
1856	2¼*d.*, 2½*d.*, and 2*d.* per lb.	4*d.* and 2½*d.* per lb.

No. 25.

COMPARATIVE RETURN of the Number of OFFENDERS convicted in the SUPREME COURT of CRIMINAL JURISDICTION in SOUTH AUSTRALIA during the Years 1850 to 1856, inclusive.

OFFENCES.	1850.	1851.	1852.	1853.	1854.	1855.	1856.
FELONIES.							
OFFENCES AGAINST THE PERSON.							
Murder	1	3	3	2	1	3	—
Manslaughter	—	1	4	5	1	4	7
Stabbing, cutting, or shooting, with intent to do some bodily harm.	5	9	2	4	4	3	2
Highway robbery	5	5	3	2	4	1	—
Rape	—	1	—	—	1	1	—
Wounding, with intent to prevent apprehension.	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
OFFENCES AGAINST PROPERTY.							
Burglary	—	—	—	3	—	2	2
Stealing in dwelling-houses	11	9	1	9	4	3	5
Burglariously breaking and entering ditto, and stealing therefrom.	3	4	—	—	—	—	—
Breaking and entering dwelling-houses, and stealing therefrom.	6	2	1	—	—	1	4
Sheep stealing	—	3	1	—	1	—	—
Horse stealing	5	7	1	8	5	6	3
Cattle stealing	1	1	—	2	3	2	4
Receiving stolen goods	4	15	2	2	4	3	1
Larceny	21	1	8	4	9	7	14
Larceny by servant	3	5	5	4	7	7	11
Larceny and former conviction	2	4	—	8	3	—	—
Larceny of promissory note, &c.	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Obtaining goods, &c., under false pretences	5	2	1	1	2	1	2
Stealing from the person	—	7	2	8	2	3	4
Embezzlement by clerks, &c.	—	4	—	1	1	3	2
MISCELLANEOUS.							
Breach of prison, and aiding, &c.	—	—	—	—	—	12	4
Returning from transportation, &c.	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Forgery	4	8	1	2	2	3	8
Uttering forged notes, orders, &c., with intent to defraud.	4	3	—	—	1		
Total Felonies	80	96	35	65	56	65	73
MISDEMEANORS.							
Misprision of felony	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Attempt to commit arson	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Abduction of infant under sixteen years of age.	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Conspiracy	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
Perjury	—	—	—	—	1	2	—
Concealment of birth	—	—	—	1	—	1	1
Assault with intent to commit rape	3	2	—	—	—	—	1
Fraud	3	1	—	—	—	—	—
Assault and aggravated assaults	7	3	2	7	5	7	7
Indecent assault	—	—	—	—	4	2	1
Assault, &c., on infant under ten years of age	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Total Misdemeanors	13	7	2	8	13	12	12
Total Convictions	93	103	37	73	69	77	85

No. 26.

RETURN of the Number of CASES heard and determined in the MAGISTRATES' COURTS, ADELAIDE, during the Years 1850 to 1856, inclusive.

Description of Cases.	During the Year						
	1850.	1851.	1852.	1853.	1854.	1855.	1856.
PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATIONS.							
Criminal Cases sent to Local Court -	4	40	32	37	31	41	32
Criminal Cases sent to Supreme Court -	133	114	56	87	55	64	93
Criminal Cases dismissed - - -	72	108	47	96	92	82	66
SUMMARY JURISDICTION.							
Information under Acts of Council - -	420	478	372	740	1,046	954	478
Criminal trials, assaults, misdemeanors, &c. -	539	357	307	137.	148	183	208
Drunkenness - - - -	388	361	476	750	969	834	630
Causes on the Civil Side - - -	1,620	2,977	1,125	613	898	1,586	2,318
	3,176	4,435	2,415	2,460	3,239	3,744	3,825

No. 27.

RETURN of the Number of FIATS in INSOLVENCY issued in the Province of SOUTH AUSTRALIA during the Years 1850 to 1856, inclusive.

	Number in the Year						
	1850.	1851.	1852.	1853.	1854.	1855.	1856.
Issued on the Petition of Creditors - -	9	26	23	2	9	10	45
" " Imprisoned debtors	17	31	15	4	8	16	27
" " Debtors at large -	22	49	15	1	1	6	16
Totals - -	48	106	53	7	18	32	88

No. 28.

COMPARATIVE RETURN showing the Number and Nature of WRITS which passed through the SHERIFF'S OFFICE during the Years 1850 to 1856, inclusive.

Year.	Nature of Writs.							Totals.
	Capias ad Satisfaciendum.	Capias.	Fieri Facias.	Habere Facias Possessionem.	To levy Fines.	Attachment for Contempt.	Execution on the Body.	
1850	52	27	94	3	2	—	1	179
1851	67	54	124	6	—	5	—	256
1852	19	47	36	10	1	3	—	116
1853	13	30	9	7	—	3	1	63
1854	15	41	18	5	—	—	1	80
1855	34	26	64	9	Writ of Injunction	2	—	135
1856	47	21	117	14	—	2	4	201

No. 29.

RETURN of the AMOUNT of MORTGAGES on LAND in the PROVINCE of SOUTH AUSTRALIA, registered during the Years 1850 to 1856, inclusive.

Year.	Amounts lent on									Totals.		
	Town Lands.			Country Lands.			Town and Country Lands.					
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1850 -	61,455	4	0	76,647	9	8	2,520	8	1	140,650	1	9
1851 -	60,857	13	4	123,335	0	11	13,595	9	10	197,788	4	1
1852 -	23,739	10	1	55,465	2	2	28,182	1	3	107,386	13	6
1853 -	40,790	14	0	139,544	2	1	20,888	9	8	201,223	5	9
1854 -	102,885	11	3	254,004	13	10	15,039	0	0	371,929	5	1
1855 -	75,499	3	4	267,476	9	11	2,379	3	4	345,354	16	7
1856 -	82,564	0	0	545,098	0	0	10,975	0	0	638,637	0	0

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

No. 30.

COMPARATIVE RETURN of LIABILITIES secured by BILLS of SALE, JUDGMENTS, and WARRANTS of ATTORNEY, registered during the Years 1850 to 1856, inclusive.

Year.	Securities.						Totals.		
	Bills of Sale.			Judgments.			Warrants of Attorney.					
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1850	18,014	12	4	10,358	11	10	7,809	1	11	36,182	6	1
1851	55,752	9	7	4,877	6	8	10,001	16	9	70,631	13	0
1852	29,501	8	7	186	8	4	765	1	9	30,452	18	8
1853	23,207	11	5	2,500	0	0	3,015	2	4	28,722	13	9
1854	31,023	3	4	—			6,353	0	0	37,376	3	4
1855	70,213	14	10	19,719	2	0	2,775	0	0	92,707	16	10
1856	134,788	16	1	2,450	8	3	23,496	0	0	160,735	4	4

No. 31.

RETURN showing ELECTORAL DISTRICTS and Number of REGISTERED ELECTORS.

Number of District.	Name of District.	Number of Names enrolled.	
		House of Assembly.	Legislative Council.
1	City of Adelaide - - - -	3,391	2,181
2	Port Adelaide - - - - -	593	455
3	West Torrens - - - - -	886	578
4	Yatala - - - - - -	1,171	729
5	Gumeracka - - - - -	549	313
6	East Torrens - - - - -	935	693
7	The Sturt - - - - -	861	578
8	Noarlunga - - - - -	529	349
9	Mount Barker - - - - -	1,006	691
10	Onkaparinga - - - - -	677	480
11	Encounter Bay - - - - -	367	353
12	Barossa - - - - -	988	685
13	The Murray - - - - -	71	33
14	Light - - - - - -	998	660
15	Victoria - - - - - -	322	142
16	The Burra and Clare - - - -	1,435	728
17	Flinders - - - - -	373	125
	Totals - -	15,352	9,773

No. 32.

RETURN showing the REVENUE and EXPENDITURE of MUNICIPAL BODIES and DISTRICT COUNCILS during the Years 1855 and 1856.

1855.

NAME.	Revenue.									Expenditure.								
	Local Revenue.			Aid from Government.			Total.			Roads, Streets, and other Local Improvements.			Official Salaries, Legal and Office Expenses, &c.			Total.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Municipal Corporations—																		
City of Adelaide - - -	10,718	14	1	7,014	2	6	17,732	16	7	14,172	17	9	4,796	16	5	18,969	14	2
Town of Kensington and Norwood	716	14	6	762	17	0	1,479	11	6	1,386	18	1	192	1	7	1,578	19	8
District Councils (34 in number) -	15,468	10	8	9,167	15	9	24,636	6	5	17,747	12	4	5,998	5	0	23,745	17	4
General Totals -	26,903	19	3	16,944	15	3	43,848	14	6	33,307	8	2	10,987	3	0	44,294	11	2

1856.

Municipal Corporations—																		
City of Adelaide - - -	13,268	15	4	10,187	10	3	23,456	5	7	19,315	19	10	4,071	18	4	23,387	18	2
Town of Port Adelaide - -	—			2,650	0	0	2,650	0	0	2,179	17	8	293	14	6	2,473	12	2
Town of Kensington and Norwood	816	3	6	815	14	6	1,631	18	0	1,086	13	7	273	15	10	1,360	9	5
Town of Glenelg - - -	331	2	2	481	0	0	812	2	2	443	15	0	172	10	7	616	5	7
District Councils (42 in number) -	15,183	16	4½	12,897	6	6½	28,081	2	11	20,316	17	4½	5,915	16	3½	26,232	13	8
General Totals -	29,599	17	4½	27,031	11	3½	56,631	8	8	43,343	3	5½	10,727	15	6½	54,070	19	0

No. 33.

RETURN of the Number of GOLD LICENCES issued, and of the AMOUNT of FEES received thereon, during the Years 1852 to 1856, inclusive.

DATE.	Number of Licences.	Amount.
		£ s. d.
Year ending 31st December 1852 - - -	1,212	1,821 0 0
Year ending 31st December 1853 - - -	476	714 0 0
Year ending 31st December 1854 - - -	588	557 0 0
Year ending 31st December 1855 - - -	842	421 0 0
Year ending 31st December 1856 - - -	358	179 0 0

NOTE.—Gold Licences are issued monthly, and terminate on the last day of each calendar month. Up to the month of November 1854, inclusive, the fee charged was thirty shillings; it was then reduced to ten shillings, the reduction taking effect in the month of December.

No. 34.

METEOROLOGICAL REGISTER from JANUARY to DECEMBER 1856, kept at the GOVERNMENT OFFICES, VICTORIA SQUARE.

MONTH.	Time.	Barometer. Inches. Maximum.	Barometer. Inches. Mean.	Barometer. Inches. Minimum.	Thermometer. Degrees. Maximum.	Thermometer. Degrees. Mean.	Thermometer. Degrees. Minimum.	Rain. Inches.
January - - -	10½ a.m.	30·26	29·98	29·68	89	76·61	68	0·66
	3½ p.m.	30·20	30·00	29·68	101	76·96	71	
February - - -	10½ a.m.	30·11	29·92	29·64	88	74·76	68	1·03
	3½ p.m.	30·11	29·91	29·64	86	76·76	66	
March - - - -	10½ a.m.	30·25	30·06	29·90	87	75·87	69	0·31
	3½ p.m.	30·23	30·03	29·84	98	81·54	68	
April - - - -	10½ a.m.	30·47	30·01	29·30	80	67	58	3·16
	3½ p.m.	30·45	30·02	29·54	86	69	61	
May - - - -	10½ a.m.	30·36	30·08	29·81	64	61·2	52	2·10
	3½ p.m.	30·35	30·06	29·72	66	60·96	54	
June - - - -	10½ a.m.	30·70	29·88	29·61	62	57	52	4·24
	3½ a.m.	30·70	29·91	29·60	60	56	52	
July - - - -	10½ a.m.	30·22	30·01	29·66	59	53·23	50	1·59
	3½ p.m.	30·20	30·00	29·67	61	53·34	49	
August - - -	10½ a.m.	30·32	29·927	29·51	68	57·46	53	1·91
	3½ p.m.	30·32	29·893	29·40	68	54·72	53	
September - - -	10½ a.m.	30·30	29·94	29·61	64	60·32	57	1·26
	3½ p.m.	30·32	29·92	29·60	72	62	57	
October - - -	10½ a.m.	30·36	29·93	29·58	77	63	58	1·87
	3½ p.m.	30·32	29·89	29·59	76	67	57	
November - - -	9½ a.m.	30·119	29·906	29·574	87	70·3	58	0·477
	6 p.m.	30·092	29·867	29·457	91	67·3	52	
December - - -	9½ a.m.	30·198	29·928	29·694	95·3	67·0	54	0·264
	6 p.m.	30·162	29·884	29·533	89·0	68·8	58	

Total rain - - - - - - 18·871 inches.

NOTE.—The observations for November and December having been taken at different hours of the day from those of the first ten months, the mean for the whole year cannot be given.

No. 35.

RETURN showing the GENERAL CONDITION of SOUTH AUSTRALIA at the close of each Year from 1840 to 1856, inclusive, in reference to the Amount of POPULATION at those Periods.

YEAR.	Total Number of Inhabitants of the Province.	Number of Inhabitants in the Municipality of Adelaide.	Number of Inhabitants in the Rural Districts	Number of Public Houses in Adelaide, Port Adelaide, and Albert Town.	Number of Public Houses in the Country.	Number of Convictions in the course of the Year for Crimes and Misdemeanors in the Supreme Court.	Number of Convictions in the course of the Year for Crimes and Misdemeanors in the Police Magistrates Court, Adelaide.	Number of Civil Cases heard and determined in the Local Court, Adelaide.	Number of Cases heard and determined in the Year for Crimes, Misdemeanors, and Civil Cases, in the Stipendiary and Police Magistrate's Courts, Adelaide.	Number of Flour Mills.	Number of Manufactories.	Number of Acres of Land in Cultivation.	Value of Exports of Colonial Produce.	Amount of Ordinary Revenue for each Year.	Amount of Ordinary Government Expenditure for each Year.	Amount of Land Revenue.	Amount of Land Expenditure.
													£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1840	14,610	8,489	6,121	70	37	47	—	—	—	—	4	2,503	15,650 0 0	30,199 14 11	169,966 19 5	—	—
1841	—	—	—	67	38	37	—	—	—	—	—	6,722	31,826 0 0	26,720 15 11	104,471 12 8	—	—
1842	—	—	—	44	37	36	—	—	—	—	—	19,790	29,079 10 6	22,074 4 6	54,444 7 3	—	—
1843*	17,366	6,107	11,259	34	33	31	—	—	—	16	31	28,690	66,160 17 2	24,142 15 2	29,842 16 6	—	—
1844	18,999	—	—	37	33	21	304	—	1,009	21	35	26,918	82,268 13 8	27,878 12 10	29,453 12 8	—	—
1845*	22,390	7,413	14,977	45	40	22	462	—	1,206	24	59	26,218	131,800 6 0	36,182 9 10	32,099 3 5	—	—
1846	25,893	—	—	58	60	40	570	487	1,328	26	44	33,292	287,059 17 6	48,017 10 2	37,207 17 10	—	—
1847	31,153	—	—	66	66	31	574	589	1,454	25	51	36,440	275,115 12 0	67,027 16 2	58,979 12 4	—	—
1848	38,666	—	—	77	89	45	483	853	1,617	25	52	48,911	465,878 10 0	82,911 15 11	80,129 2 3	—	—
1849	52,904	—	—	82	128	116	670	1,282	2,492	—	—	24,983	373,842 0 0	108,301 4 7	82,637 11 2	—	—
1850*	63,700	14,577	49,123	87	110	93	754	1,620	3,176	27	108	64,728	545,039 14 0	146,093 12 0	136,304 10 11	92,899 2 5	102,778 0 10
1851	66,538	—	—	108	185	103	634	2,977	4,435	—	—	—	540,962 0 0	127,046 18 1	143,981 10 5	95,511 16 11	41,524 10 5
1852	68,663	—	—	110	125	37	859	1,125	2,415	—	—	—	736,898 17 0	122,036 6 6†	104,006 5 7	121,137 16 5	36,041 11 3
1853	78,944	—	—	119	167	73	1,331	613	2,460	40	140	—	713,640 14 0	270,321 11 3†	170,598 5 1	314,432 9 5	114,185 11 9
1854	92,545	—	—	119	205	69	1,798	898	3,239	60	210	129,692½	694,422 0 0	449,429 13 5†	393,288 4 4	394,581 6 3	237,524 14 9
1855*	96,982	18,259‡	67,562‡	125	251	77	—	1,586	3,744	—	—	—	666,293 0 0	231,933 7 3†	390,217 10 5	258,356 13 3§	163,077 7 4§
1856	104,708	—	—	132	263	85	—	2,318	3,828	70	228	203,423	1,364,904 10 0	413,323 10 6†	452,415 14 5	310,991 11 6§	227,734 1 10§

* Excepting as regards the years marked * in which the census was taken, the numbers have been estimated.

† Including loans, aid from Crown moiety of Land Fund, and Gold Revenue :—Gold Revenue in 1852, 19,711*l.* 2*s.* 5*d.*; 1853, 16,425*l.* 0*s.* 10*d.*; 1854, 687*l.* 9*s.* 11*d.*; 1855, 231*l.* 10*s.* 10*d.*; 1856, 9*l.* 11*s* 8*d.* Loans and aid from Land Fund, 1853, 45,000*l.*; 1854, 248,655*l.*; 1855, 45,700*l.*; 1856, 207,900*l.*

‡ On 31st March 1855, date on which census was taken.

§ Exclusive of Land and Emigration Commissioners accounts.

Enclosure 2 in No. 33.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

Encl. 2 in No. 33.

Magnetic Telegraph Department, Chief Office, Adelaide,
September 22, 1857.

SIR,

AGREEABLY to your request I have the honour to furnish your Excellency with a brief report on the introduction and progress of the magnetic telegraph in this province, together with other matters connected with the department over which I have the honour to preside. It affords me the more pleasure to comply with your Excellency's command from my knowledge of the deep interest you take in the prosecution of all public works having for their object the development of our natural resources, and also because I deem it just matter of gratification, auguring well for the future prosperity of the colony, that so young a community, barely passed its nonage, should have taken such active steps in the formation of railways and telegraphs. Such works may be justly regarded as the *sine qua non* of advancement, the pioneers of progress, and no nation, no colony, can become great that possesses them not.

1*st. Existing Lines.*

There are at the present time two lines of telegraph in operation, having an aggregate length of thirty-nine miles.

The line from Adelaide to the port and sea-coast, about ten and a half miles, was commenced at the latter end of December 1855, and opened in the month of February following; the wires are carried over ground from Adelaide to the port by the side of the railway, and under ground in iron pipes from the port to the sea coast, a length of 700 yards of submarine cable, a portion of that laid under the Mediterranean, being laid under the creek. Six-wire underground cable is also laid from the Adelaide railway terminus to the telegraph office in King William Street. The overground portion of the line is furnished with four wires, the subterranean and submarine cables consist of six wires. In the selection of timber for this line I was careful to use that which appeared to be the least liable to the attack of white ants; I have planted either Swan River mahogany or Singapore cedar, squared, well painted, and charred, and tarred for five feet from the base. The lines are insulated by Walker's double cone white porcelain insulators.

The erection of the north line to Gawler Town was sanctioned by the Legislature in the month of March last year; it was commenced in January, and opened on the 14th of April following. Length, including a branch to the Dry Creek Stockade, twenty-eight and a half miles.

The wire keeps the side of the railway as far as the Gawler Town terminus, and is thence extended three quarters of a mile into Murray Street, where a neat telegraph office has been erected. I advised this extension into the town, because I have ever found it advisable to place the telegraph office as nearly as possible in the business centre of a town.

Round peppermint gum posts, sixteen or seventeen feet long, from Kangaroo Island, painted, charred, and tarred, have been used along the line of railway, and square Baltic timber, twenty-two feet long, for the extension into Gawler Town. Two wires are suspended throughout.

The cost of this line, exclusive of the station at Gawler, was little over 55*l.* per mile, including instruments and fittings for seven stations. This is the cheapest line that has yet been erected in the Australian colonies. It was carried out by day labour, and not by contract, as is usual.

2*d. Works in Progress.*

In the month of March 1856 I had the honour, in a letter addressed to your Excellency, to set forth the advantages that would result from the establishment of telegraphic communication with Victoria and the neighbouring colonies, and at the same time expressed my opinion that the work could be carried out for 50*l.* or 60*l.* per mile.

A correspondence on the subject was opened with Victoria, and in the month of July following I proceeded by your Excellency's command to Melbourne, for the purpose of facilitating the negotiations then pending between the two Governments, and having received an assurance of co-operation on the part of Victoria, I returned overland in order to select the best route for the projected line, and in the month of October had the honour to lay my report before this Government.

In accordance with my estimate the sum of 20,500*l.* was voted *nem. con.* by the late Legislature, and the work was actively commenced in April last, and is now, I am glad to say, fast progressing towards completion. The contract for the erection of the line was taken by Mr. Walter Thompson at the rate of 40*l.* per mile, the Government finding wire and other material. These as well as the instruments are supplied by Messrs. Meyer and Co., of Melbourne. On the Victorian side they are pushing forward their section with equal vigour, and there is reason to believe that the communication between the two capitals, a distance of 700 miles, will be completed in March next.

Our portion of the line will cost, with instruments for six stations, about 60*l.* per mile (which includes, it should be remembered, ten miles of submarine cable), and the vote, it is confidently expected, will be ample for the building of stations at the following places along the line; viz., Willunga, Port Elliott, Goolwa, Guichen Bay, Mount Gambier, in

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

South Australia; in Victoria there will be a station at Portland, Belfast, Warnambool, Hexham, Raglam (near Fiery Creek), Ballarat, Geelong, and Melbourne.

A line is in course of erection to connect Melbourne and Sydney, embracing Castlemaine, Sandhurst, Albury, &c., and a submarine line from Cape Otway to Cape Grim, shortly to be laid down, will unite Launceston and Hobarton in the general scheme, and thus complete the electrical federation of the four colonies.

Mr. M'Gowan, for whom I entertain a sincere regard, and whose ability as a telegraphist I have had many opportunities of testing, agrees with me in almost every detail, and one system will, I believe, be adopted throughout. In New South Wales there was at first a strong feeling in favour of Henley's magnetic instrument, and by request I furnished that Government with my opinion as to the relative merits of the magnetic needle instrument and Morse's recording instrument, which I have reason to think resulted in the latter being decided on. As I introduced Henley's instrument into this colony it may perhaps be well for me here to explain my reasons for doing so, and also why I now recommend the use of Morse's on the line to Melbourne, &c.

I was induced to adopt Henley's instrument before coming to this colony chiefly on account of its simplicity, and also because I considered that on short lines it was by far the least expensive in working, and equally as accurate in the hands of proficient operators as the recording instrument, whilst as a needle instrument it was unrivalled and very expeditious. Where, however, the lines extend to great length, and where there is divided authority, it becomes a matter of consequence, in case of error, to be able to trace its source, whether committed by the transmitter or reader, and this the recording system effects. In practice, with equally expert and accomplished operators, I believe as many errors occur with one as with the other. Now that Morse's instrument is to be used in all the other colonies, it is manifest that it can be worked much more economically than if but one colony used it.

3d. Works projected.

I have ventured to place under this head a project that has for some time occupied my earnest attention. Before I left England I wrote about it, and now I see the day is not far distant when our electric union with Europe, and in a word, with the civilized world, will be *un fait accompli.*

In May last a draft of a bill having for its object the investing an English company with the powers necessary for the construction and working of lines of telegraph to connect the Australian colonies *vid* India with England was placed in my hands, and duly reported on by me in a letter to the Honourable the Commissioner of Public Works, dated May 29th. In that report I have urged the importance of our giving every encouragement to a scheme, planned by gentlemen of high standing in the commercial world, and well known as the projectors of the Mediterranean and European and Indian junction lines, that would place us in almost instantaneous communication with the whole world.

The extension to India is now being made. A message can now be sent from London to Ragusa on the Adriatic; and the Austrian Government some time since concluded contracts for extending their lines from Ragusa to Alexandria, including *en route* Corfu, Zante, and Candia. From Alexandria it was to be immediately extended to Seleucia by way of Jaffa and Beyrout.

From Seleucia the European and Indian Junction Telegraph Company, having guaranteed interest from the British Government and the Honourable East India Company, will continue the line to Aleppo and along the Valley of the Euphrates to Kurnah at the head of the Persian Gulf. A submarine cable is to be laid along the Gulf, thence to Kurrachee, where it will unite with the Indian lines, now 4,000 miles in extent.

The Australian extension from Singapore will be across the Straits of Malacca to Sumatra, thence to Java (including Batavia), and threading the Islands Balo, Sombock, Sumbaura, Flores, and Timor, would join the mainland of Australia not far from Port Essington, and thence towards the eastern coast to Sydney, where it would meet the colonial lines now in course of erection.

In the draft of the Bill submitted to me, it is stated that the work is to be completed by the end of the year 1862.

The cost of the line will much depend on the nature of the country traversed, the price of labour, number of wires, and other circumstances; but presuming that the Australian subsidy would be proportionably borne by the several colonies, I estimate the annual cost to this colony at not more than 4,000*l.*, a small sum for so great an advantage. I have extended my remarks to this length, because I see that in New South Wales a misapprehension exists as to cost, and that it is there supposed that in the event of the work being carried out it would necessitate the reduction or total withdrawal of the subsidy for the steam postal service.

4th. Business on existing Lines.

The next point on which I would report is the amount of business done on the Port and North lines, and I must here call to your remembrance, that during the year 1856 there was, in addition to the Government line to the port, a private line also in operation, and that the former was open for little more than ten months only. The private line closed in the month of February of the present year, and I have in the following statement shown the monthly receipts for this year.

RECEIPTS (not including Value of Messages on Public Service).

		North Line.			Port Line.			TOTAL.		
		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1856.	February 18th to December 31st - -	—			366	6	7	366	6	7
1857.	January - - - - - - -	—			60	16	6	60	16	6
	February - - - - - -	—			80	16	2	80	16	2
	March - - - - - - -	—			60	12	9	60	12	9
	April - - - - - - -	12	5	2	69	2	5	81	7	7
	May - - - - - - -	27	14	6	66	3	5	93	17	11
	June - - - - - - -	38	18	10	88	2	1	127	0	11
	£	78	18	6	425	13	4	504	11	10

I estimate the receipts for the present year at 1,200*l.*, to which should be added 500*l.*, the real value of the Government and railway messages, on which no charge is made. The probable expenditure for the same period will be about 1,400*l.* The cash statement for the year will therefore stand thus:—

PROBABLE CASH STATEMENT for 1857.

Expenditure.	£	s.	d.	Receipts.	£	s.	d.
Probable Expenditure - -	1,400	0	0	Actual Receipts, estimated at -	1,200	0	0
Balance - - - - -	300	0	0	Estimated value of messages on service - - - - -	500	0	0
	£1,700	0	0		£1,700	0	0

The number of messages, however, more clearly exhibits the real utility of the telegraph and the work performed. I find the number to have been as follows:—

1856.	February 18th to December 31st -	14,738	messages.
1857.	January 1st to June 30th - -	16,132	,,
	Total - -	30,870	,, in 16½ months.

By a report published in Victoria, I find the line from Melbourne to Williams Town was completed in February 1854, and to Geelong on December 5th of the same year. The extension to Queenscliff was opened on January 30th, 1850, and a branch to Sandridge was erected in 1855, making an aggregate length of 72 miles.

The number of messages on these lines was as follows:—

1854.	March 1st to December 31st - - -	3,869	messages.
1855.	The whole year - - - - -	12,241	,,
1856.	Ditto - - - - -	13,174	,,
	Total number of messages -	29,284	

Since then, two lines, one from Geelong to Ballarat, and another from Melbourne to Sandhurst, have been opened, making in all 250 miles, and the number of messages have consequently increased; the number transmitted during the first six months of this year being 26,480 Here, in the same period, and with only 10½ miles open for 3½ months, and 39 the remaining 2½, the number was 16,132.

5th. Meteorological.

In the month of November last year I commenced a series of meteorological observations, based on the system adopted by the British Meteorological Society. Similar observations are being carried on in Victoria, where there are about eleven stations under the able superintendence of Mr. Brough Smythe, of the Crown Lands Department; and in New South Wales, under the Colonial Astronomer, Mr. Scott, who has, I believe, ten or more stations. To increase the sphere of our operations in this colony I have invoked the pecuniary aid of the Government, and on my recommendation the sum of 300*l.* has been placed on the estimates for next year, which will enable me to provide ten or twelve stations with instruments. I had the honour a few days since to furnish your Excellency with a Meteorological Summary to June 30th.

My astronomical duties have been in abeyance, and nothing beyond the calculation, of the solar eclipses of last year and the present, and an occultation of Mars by the moon has been done.

I have, &c.

His Excellency the Governor-in-Chief, &c. &c. &c.

CHARLES TODD,
Observer and Superintendent of Telegraphs, S. A.

Enclosure 3 in No. 33.

RETURN of the NUMBER of LUNATICS treated in the ASYLUM and HER MAJESTY'S GAOL, showing the Sum received for Fees, Amount of Expenditure for Medicines, Medical Comforts, Provisions, &c. from 1st January to 31st December 1856.

Class of Diseases.	Remaining 1st January 1856.				Since admitted.								Daily Average Number of Lunatics during the Period.		Fees received in	Amount received as Fees.	Amount of Expenditure for			Total Amount.	Remarks.
					Without Payment of Fees.				On Payment of Fees.								Medical Comforts.	Provisions and Light.	Bedding, Clothing, and Sundries.		
	Without Payment of Fees.		On Payment of Fees.		Admissions.		Deaths.		Admissions.		Deaths.										
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
Dementa - -	6	4	–	–	5	–	2	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	January -	5 12 0	44 0 4	196 3 9	3 9 2	243 13 3	
„ senilis -	–	2	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	February -	12 10 0	37 6 11	102 7 3	3 2 6	142 16 8	
															March -	2 18 0	36 14 0	93 5 9	19 2 0	149 1 9	
Mania - - -	16	14	2	–	13	13	1	1	1	1	–	–	–	–	April -	16 10 0	33 7 4	89 7 5	19 11 10	142 6 7	
„ puerperal -	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	May -	17 8 0	37 17 4	99 15 9	48 14 2	186 7 11	
„ suicidal -	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	June -	21 4 0	33 5 2	94 19 6	119 8 2	247 12 10	
															July -	16 4 0	26 2 6	85 19 4	13 19 10	126 1 8	
Monomania - -	8	6	–	–	5	3	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	August -	14 8 0	29 18 2	91 16 8	6 0 0	127 14 10	
															September -	26 12 0	30 2 8	95 3 7	142 12 5	267 18 8	
Melancholia - -	2	2	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	October -	10 16 0	38 10 0	96 10 4	6 6 0	141 6 4	
															November -	3 2 0	32 17 2	92 6 10	- - -	125 4 0	
															December -	17 10 0	32 14 0	92 18 9	62 12 1	188 4 10	
Total - -	33	28	2	1	25	16	3	1	2	2	–	–	38	30		164 14 0	412 15 7	1,230 14 11	444 18 10	2,088 9 4	

		Annual Cost of each Patient.	Daily Average Cost of each Patient.
Add, Cost of Medicines supplied from Adelaide Hospital	45 0 3		
	2,133 9 4		
Deduct, Cost of Rations for Eleven Servants - - -	165 0 0		
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Total Cost for Lunatics - - £	1,968 9 4	32 16 2	0 1 9½

WILLIAM GOSSE,
Acting Superintendent.

Enclosure 4 in No. 33.

RETURN of the NUMBER of PATIENTS treated in the ADELAIDE HOSPITAL, showing the Sum received for Fees, Amount of Expenditure for Medicines, Medical Comforts, Provisions, Bedding, Clothing, &c. from 1st January to 31st December 1856.

Diseases.	Without Payment of Fees.				On Payment of Fees.				Average Duration of Stay in Hospital.		Daily Average Number in Hospital during the Period.	
	Admissions.		Deaths.		Admissions.		Deaths.					
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Fevers	64	76	12	10	5	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Eruptive Fevers	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diseases of Lungs	29	13	12	5	4	1	2	—	—	—	—	—
„ Liver	5	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
„ Stomach and Bowels	19	23	3	2	5	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Epidemic Cholera	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diseases of Brain and Nervous System	6	16	2	2	2	3	1	—	—	—	—	—
Dropsies	3	3	4	1	5	—	4	—	—	—	—	—
Rheumatic Affections	28	18	—	—	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Venereal Affections	13	2	—	—	5	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Abscesses and Ulcers	34	13	3	2	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wounds and Injuries	46	11	2	—	8	—	4	—	—	—	—	—
Diseases of Eyes	11	9	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
„ Skin	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
All other Diseases	23	29	5	4	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	283	215	43	26	54	5	14	—	41	46	38	28

Fees received in	Amount received as Fees.	Amount of Expenditure for: Medicines.	Medical Comforts.	Provisions and Light.	Bedding, Clothing, and Sundries.	Total Amount.	Remarks.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
January	21 4 0	35 2 6	66 13 3	86 9 5	36 3 0	224 8 2	
February	13 18 0	30 2 9	77 3 0	83 5 4	29 18 3	220 9 4	
March	7 4 0	34 14 4	69 19 2	83 0 1	49 18 0	237 11 7	
April	7 16 0	33 3 7	64 15 3	83 6 9	110 14 11	292 0 6	
May	19 4 0	36 6 7	59 7 3	84 0 0	112 18 8	292 12 6	
June	18 14 0	26 18 9	52 18 6	80 18 3	40 8 0	201 3 6	
July	9 12 6	43 10 0	52 0 3	79 8 11	37 1 4	212 0 6	
August	24 0 6	35 15 2	49 13 5	82 3 3	36 15 6	204 7 4	
September	26 0 0	38 9 10	48 11 6	80 11 6	64 16 6	232 9 4	
October	9 11 0	39 8 8	41 10 10	74 6 10	421 9 10	576 16 2	
November	21 2 0	54 19 10	45 14 2	76 10 11	256 4 10	433 9 9	
December	26 6 0	40 14 8	56 12 1	76 1 3	102 6 8	275 14 8	
Add, Cost of Medicines received from England	- -	478 14 7	- -	- - -	- - -	478 14 7	
	204 12 0	928 1 3	684 18 8	970 2 6	1,298 15 6	3,881 17 11	

Average duration of stay of Patients in Hospital	Number of Days for: M.	F.
Acute diseases	25	26½
Chronic diseases	105½	105½

Deduct, Probable cost of Medicines supplied to the following Establishments:—		
Lunatic Asylum	45 0 0	
Police and Sappers	50 0 0	
Her Majesty's Gaol	80 0 0	
Medical Officer, Port Lincoln	11 0 0	
„ „ Dry Creek	20 0 0	
Destitute Poor, In and Out Door Patients	150 0 0	
Cost of Rations for Ten Servants at Adelaide Hospital	150 0 0	
	506 0 0	
Total Cost Adelaide Hospital £	3,375 17 11	

Annual Cost of each Patient.			Daily Average Cost of each Patient.		
£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
51	3	0	0	2	9½

WILLIAM GOSSE,
Acting Superintendent.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

No. 34.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

No. 34.

COPIES of DESPATCHES from Governor KENNEDY to the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE, M.P.

(No. 39.)

Government House, Perth, April 13, 1857.

SIR, (Received June 12, 1857.)

1. I HAVE the honour to transmit the duplicate copy of the annual Blue Book for 1856, and to offer the following remarks thereon.

REVENUE.

2. *Customs.* Under this head there has been an increase of 6,116*l.* 0*s.* 5*d.* in the year 1856, as compared with the former year, 1855. This increase may be accounted for as follows:—An increased tariff; quantity of spirits and tobacco taken out of bond in June and July, anticipating such increase; by better Customs regulations; and, finally, by the increased prosperity and expenditure of the people.

3. The revenue from ad valorem duty is 1,186*l.* in excess of 1855, attributable partly to an increase of one per cent. import duty, but mainly to increased consumption.

4. Under the head of "Sugar" there has been a falling off in 1856, compared with 1855, of 970*l.* I attribute this to a deficient supply in the market, in consequence of the accidental withdrawal of the usual transport between Singapore and this colony.

5. *Harbour Dues.* An increase of 157*l.* 7*s.* 4*d.* appears under this head. The present rate of dues was in operation for seven months only of 1855.

6. *Land Sales.* There has been a decrease under this head of 441*l.* 13*s.* 7*d.* as compared with 1855, but the quantity sold in 1856 is much in excess of any other year, and exhibits the strongest evidence of the sound progress of the colony.

7. *The Land Revenue* derived from pastoral and tillage leases at the same time shows an excess in 1856, as compared with 1855, to the extent of 407*l.* 15*s.* Agricultural operations have been extended, and fresh land taken up for grazing purposes. For the first time in the history of the colony, the produce of the harvest is believed to be fully equal to the consumption of the people.

8. An increase will be observed under the heads of "Transfer Duties," "Auction Duties," and "Licences."

9. *Postages.* The system of official franking having been abolished, an increase of 951*l.* 16*s.* 8*d.* is shown. The actual increase, however, may be estimated at about 200*l.*, the remaining portion being the proceeds of stamps, &c. on official correspondence. The franking system was abolished 1st January 1856.

10. An increase of 250*l.* 10*s.* 6*d.* is shown under the head of "Judicial Fines and Fees."

11. An increase of 54*l.* 10*s.* 6*d.* as "Fees of Office," arises from an increase of public business.

12. *Sale of Government Property.* Under this head is shown an increase of 238*l.* 5*s.* 6*d.*, arising from the sale of cast police horses, and horses no longer required for Survey Department, in consequence of a change of system in providing transport for field surveyors.

13. *Parliamentary Grant.* The Parliamentary Grant from the 1st April 1856, previous to which period the Governor's salary, which was chargeable on that grant, was drawn in England, therefore no sums have been drawn from the Commissariat chest in 1856.

14. *Loan from Western Australian Bank.* Towards the close of 1854 the finances of the colony became embarrassed from excessive expenditure, and it was found necessary, in order to carry on the public service, to borrow from the Western Australian Bank. The first loans from the bank were effected in October 1854, and the last in April 1856, and the entire amount due to that establishment was liquidated in July 1856.

COMPARATIVE YEARLY STATEMENT OF COLONIAL EXPENDITURE.

15. The decrease of 2,458*l.* 4*s.* 9*d.* in 1856 does not arise from any material alteration in the scale or extent of fixed establishments, but is principally owing to the Governor drawing his salary in England, and a reduction in police expenditure.

16. *Gaols.* The decrease of 1,345*l.* 2*s.* 5*d.* under this head is consequent upon the removal of native prisoners to Rottnest Island, and discontinuance of rural gaols as places of lengthened confinement.

17. *Transport.* The reduction of 227*l.* 18*s.* 6*d.* arises from the discontinuance of Government teams, and the employment of contract teams instead.

18. *Works and Buildings.* Decrease, 214*l.* 1*s.* 11*d.* *Roads and Bridges.* Decrease, 2,009*l.* 5*s.* 3*d.* The reductions under these heads were necessary in consequence of the embarrassed condition of the colonial finances in 1854–55.

19. *Harbour Master.* Increase of 109*l.* 7*s.* 8*d.*, the expense of building a buoy boat for the Harbour.

20. *Poorhouse and Immigration.* The decrease of 252*l.* 9*s.* 1*d.* is consequent upon the change of system adopted in the establishment, compelling emigrants by all legitimate means to go into service, rather than permit them to remain in idleness on the hands of the Government.

21. *Rottnest Penal Establishment*, 1,097*l.* 5*s.* 3*d.* The restoration of this establishment was imperatively necessary to the safe custody and suitable punishment of native convicts, as well as to obviate the inhuman means necessary for their safe custody at Perth. Vide decrease under head of "Gaols."

22. *Repayment of Loans to Western Australian Bank*, 4,082*l.* 3*s.* 1*d.* increase. The final payment on account of these loans took place in July 1856, and I apprehend that no further recourse need be had to future loans.

TAXES AND DUTIES.

23. The taxes and duties were altered during 1856, according to the scale at pages 2 and 3*, to enable the Government to pay off an outstanding debt which retarded all progress. There is no direct taxation.

(* Of Blue Book.)

PUBLIC DEBT.

24. The public debt has been decreased from 12,939*l.* in 1855 to 8,688*l.* in 1856.

LEGISLATION.

25. The titles of the various Ordinances passed during the year 1856 are sufficiently indicative of their object. They have been fully commented upon at the period of their transmission.

IMPORTS.

26. The general imports of the year 1856 amount in value to the sum of 122,938*l.*, exceeding those of 1855 by the sum of 17,619*l.*, arising principally on the following items: on articles of domestic use, as—

	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
Butter and cheese, an increase of	1,741	16	10			
Pork and hams, an increase of	963	1	1			
Oilman's stores, an increase of	2,026	0	9			
Soap and candles, an increase of	1,069	0	5			
Drapery and haberdashery, an increase of	2,344	12	3			
Earthenware and glass, an increase of	769	10	2			
Hardware, &c., an increase of	722	3	10			
Apparel, an increase of	1,195	11	7			
Boots and shoes, an increase of	1,111	16	11			
				11,943	13	10
On articles as—						
Tools and implements, an increase of	3,371	5	5			
Furniture, an increase of	1,394	2	3			
				4,765	7	8
Articles of luxury—						
Spirits, an increase of	3,307	2	6			
Tobacco, an increase of	955	19	8			
Wine, an increase of	927	2	6			
Beer, an increase of	1,697	3	8			
				6,887	8	4
				£23,596	9	10

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

These items indicate an excess of more than 23,000*l.*, but the general excess is reduced by the falling off in the quantity of sugar imported in 1856, amounting to an estimated value of probably 8,000*l.*, almost entirely attributable to the accidental removal of ships previously engaged in its transit from Singapore, now replaced by colonial vessels. A consideration of the items above enumerated will sufficiently indicate the social progress of the people.

27. It may be interesting to take a short review of the imports since the introduction of convicts in the year 1850, and the effect that measure produced. In that year the general imports were estimated at 62,351*l.*, being about a moiety only of those of 1856. The additional capital thrown into general circulation by the imperial expenditure gave such an impetus to agricultural and commercial pursuits, and enhanced the value of every description of property to such an extent, that the imports advanced in value till 1854, when they reached the money value of 128,000*l.* The imports of that year were admittedly, and have been proved to be, beyond the requirements of the people, and the imports of 1855 were consequently decreased by about 23,000*l.* Notwithstanding this practical experience by the importers, the imports of 1856 come short of those of 1854 by about 5,000*l.* only. I assume from these facts that the imports of 1856 are not in excess of the requirements, and that the trade of the colony is in a sound and healthy state. I further infer, from the foregoing figures, that the prosperity and progress of the colony is mainly, if not altogether, dependent upon the continuance of transportation, its capabilities, as at present known, being insufficient to bind enterprising men from seeking the superior attractions of other colonies, were the convict expenditure and cheap labour withdrawn. It thus becomes the more important that the colonists and Her Majesty's Government should approach all difficult convict questions in a spirit of moderation and compromise

Exports.

28. The exports of the colony, in like manner as the imports, have increased from about 21,000*l.* in the year 1850 to 44,000*l.* in 1856. There is a decrease in the exports of 1856, as compared with 1855, of about 2,000*l.*, arising from a temporary suspension of the timber trade with South Australia. This trade has been resumed with increased activity; and I look for largely increased exports in 1857, from the promising aspect of newly-discovered and rich copper mines, which are being worked with as much activity as local capital will admit of.

General Remarks.

29. A perusal of the tables comprised in the Blue Book will convey an impression of the general and steady progress of the colony. No rapid results can be expected from so small and stationary a population, to which I can see little prospect of any material increase while the superior attractions to other colonies exist; and small communities have, I believe, in all places, been found unfavourable to even proportional development.

* * * * * *

30. There is a singular absence of pauperism and distress, and a consideration of the imports will show that all classes have increased their comforts and expenditure. There are but few of the agriculturists who do not re-invest their gains in the same pursuit. Recent and wise concessions to the colonists by Her Majesty's Government, in the remission of "passage money" from convicts, will tend to cheapen labour, and enable the agriculturists to compete successfully with those of any other colony.

31. The lead and copper mines, especially the latter, are daily assuming greater importance, and I entertain sanguine hopes that they will ere long prove valuable resources.

32. The statistics of crime in this colony must ever be a subject of unusual interest. The general security for life and property equals that in any part of Her Majesty's dominions, and far exceeds that existing in communities of much higher pretensions. Highway robbery, or robberies with violence, are of the rarest occurrence. All classes of the community travel to and fro, late and early, unarmed and unattended. Whenever crime is committed it is promptly detected.

33. The criminal returns for 1855 showed —

Murders - - -	6
Other felonies - - -	24
Misdemeanors - -	26
Criminals executed - -	7

34. The present year shows a remarkable and most satisfactory decrease upon the foregoing. There were only twenty-nine criminals of all grades tried and convicted before the general quarter sessions in the year 1856. Their crimes were as follow:—

Murders - - -	2
Other felonies - - -	9
Larcenies - - -	18

Thirteen cases of the total larcenies were thefts of clothes and food, and the remaining five for stealing whale oil, tools, and copper coin, all of small value. One murder was committed at York by a conditionally-pardoned man upon a ticket-of-leave holder, and the other at the Vasse by a ticket-of-leave holder upon a free man; both were aggravated cases. Three out of the four robberies above stated were committed upon men in public houses while in a state of drunkenness.

35. Of the total twenty-nine criminals, six were free men, twenty were conditionally-pardoned men, and three ticket-of-leave holders. Magisterial or summary convictions are not of course included in these numbers.

36. When the increased number of liberated criminals is considered, the foregoing details are the more satisfactory, and reflect great credit on the efficiency and improved organization of the police force, reduced as it has been in numbers and expense since 1855.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. E. KENNEDY.

The Right Hon. H. Labouchere, M.P.
&c. &c. &c.

(No. 123.)

Government House, Perth, November 13, 1857.
(Received January 13, 1858.)

SIR,

1. The growing importance of the Northern District of this colony having rendered it desirable that I should make myself acquainted with the prospects and resources of this large tract of country, I availed myself of the opportunity of a ship proceeding thither on the 3d of October, and embarked for Champion Bay.

2. Though you have on former occasions received descriptions of this district, my later impression of its resources and capabilities may not be uninteresting, in connexion with the anticipated increase of population both free and convict.

3. Champion Bay is the only anchorage for vessels of any size on this part of the coast, and is in my opinion much safer and easier of access than is generally supposed. For nine months of the year it may be safely frequented, and I think at any season by well-found ships. From this port all the produce of the district—wheat, butter, cheese, wool, and copper ore—is exported. A jetty is in process of erection to facilitate these operations. Numerous "Town Lots" have been purchased, and preparations for building commenced. A party of probation prisoners are hutted here, for the purpose of erecting the jetty and other necessary public works. The conduct of this party, beyond the temptation of public houses, and with but slender supervision, has been exemplary.

4. From Champion Bay I proceeded to Port Gregory, near which there are commodious buildings for a ticket-of-leave depôt. There are but a few acres of land in the neighbourhood or within 30 miles fit for agricultural purposes, and an almost total absence of fuel and fresh water. The water at the depôt is so brackish as to be unfit for use, and this, together with the impossibility of procuring vegetables, induced scurvy to a considerable extent among the convicts while the depôt was occupied.

5. The harbour at Port Gregory is formed by a coral reef, running nearly parallel to the shore, and over which the sea breaks in moderate gales. It is

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narrow and difficult of access, and only fit for vessels of small tonnage. This is the port of shipment for the ore from the Geraldine Lead Mine, 36 miles inland. There are formidable engineering difficulties in making a good road to connect the mine and harbour, but by no means insuperable were the mine in the hands of persons of energy and capital. There has been a Pensioner Guard, consisting of a corporal and three men, stationed here since the formation of the depôt. They were miserably hutted, and suffered great privations till the depôt was closed, since which period they have occupied the convict buildings; I propose to remove them to the neighbourhood of Champion Bay as there is no military duty for them now to perform at Port Gregory, and no available land on which they could be made self supporting without the aid of military pay.

6. From Port Gregory I proceeded to the Geraldine Lead Mine, a distance of 36 miles. The whole of the country between these two points, with the exception of a small patch of land nearly midway, is unproductive. The history of the Geraldine mine is probably known to you. The richness of the ore obtainable is in my opinion undoubted, and the quantity unlimited; under good and energetic management it would have paid well. It has languished and failed from want of sufficient capital to work it. I have no doubt that when practical men with capital succeed to its management it will prove a valuable resource and a most remunerative undertaking. An immediate outlay of 4,000*l.* to 5,000*l.* would be necessary before any steady return could be expected.

7. The next object of my visit was the Wanerenooka Copper Mine lately opened, between which and Champion Bay there is every facility for the formation of a good road. A considerable quantity of ore from this mine has been shipped to England, and realized highly remunerative prices. It is at present worked by a company on a small scale, but will eventually prove a most valuable resource and afford extensive employment.

8. The whole of this district abounds in mineral indications, to which many persons have turned their attention. There is much fine grazing land and good wheat land in the neighbourhood, together with a plentiful supply of water. With these natural advantages I look for the rapid settlement and progress of this part of the district. The Wanerenooka Mine is, in a direct line, about 40 miles distant from the Geraldine Mine.

9. There is a large extent of fine land held under squatting leases in this neighbourhood. One settler commenced in 1851 with 2,000 sheep, he has since sold or killed 4,000, and has now a stock of 11,000. Many others have in proportion done equally well. Wheat growing has proved highly remunerative; 9*s.* per bushel was obtained for 600 bushels by one settler while I was in the district.

10. Leaving the Wanerenooka and Bowes country I proceeded toward the Greenough River, visiting settlers farms by the way. Their thriving condition and the luxuriance of their crops was most satisfactory and gratifying, many having raised themselves from servitude to a state of independence with every domestic comfort about them. The very best land, whether for grazing or agricultural purposes, is to be found in this neighbourhood, and is being rapidly purchased or leased. I saw some very good flocks of sheep and herds of horses in this neighbourhood, and a herd of 500 of the finest grass fed cattle I have ever seen. Perth and Fremantle are supplied with beef principally from the Northern District, the animals being driven overland without much loss. Cattle in this and the Irwin district are equally prolific and remunerative as sheep. One herd of horned cattle was commenced in 1851 with 900, more than 900 have since been sold at an average of 16*l.* per head, and the herd has increased to 2,000.

11. From the Greenough I proceeded to the Irwin River. The available land in this district is limited to the banks of the river, but of very fine quality. The principal settler on this river is a most energetic and prosperous gentleman, extending his operations daily, and conferring substantial benefits on all around him. The mouth of this river is accessible for coasting craft. I look to this district as most promising, and capable of supplying a large quantity of corn and cattle.

12. From the Irwin River to Gingin the country is generally barren and requires no particular description; it is unfit for settlement, except in small

patches. There are a few settlers on the Moore River, but the land worth occupation is very limited.

13. From Gingin to Perth, 54 miles, the country is well known; there is much fine land and many most thriving settlements in the neighbourhood of Gingin.

14. Though I do not profess much practical knowledge on the subject, I have every reason to believe that coal will be found in the neighbourhood of Port Gregory, a matter of great importance in a district abounding in minerals.

15. The native population in the Northern District (as in others) is rapidly on the decrease. They are tractable and inoffensive, but of the lowest order of savages. The females old, and young, go abroad without covering of any kind, absolutely nude.

16. I was on the whole most agreeably surprised by the resources of the Northern District, and the prosperity and contentment of the settlers were most gratifying.

17. I rode upwards of six hundred miles during my tour, and slept many nights in the "Bush;" the only tent for myself and party consisted of two barrack sheets stitched together and strained over a pole, a sufficient indication of the mildness and salubrity of the climate.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. E. KENNEDY.

The Right Hon. H. Labouchere, M.P.
&c. &c. &c.

NEW ZEALAND.

[*The Annual Reports for the Years* 1855 *and* 1856 *have not been received from New Zealand.*]

PART V.

EASTERN COLONIES.

CEYLON.

No. 35.

CEYLON.

No. 35.

Copy of DESPATCH from Governor Sir H. G. Ward to the Right Hon. H. Labouchere, M.P.

(No. 135.) Queen's House, Colombo, July 25, 1857.

Sir, (Received September 5, 1857.)

The great length at which I brought before you the state and prospects of this colony in the Despatch accompanying the Blue Book Returns for the year 1855, and the various points upon which I have subsequently been favoured with your decision, will enable me to deal more briefly upon the present occasion with many subjects which it was then necessary to discuss in much detail, and to consider the report of 1856 rather as the working out of the principles originally laid down, than as involving new or doubtful questions upon which I have still to solicit your instructions. I propose, therefore, to make this Despatch simply an extension of the former one, taking up the subjects in the same order, and carrying them on to the 1st January 1857, stating the results that have been arrived at, the measures still in progress, and the farther results that may be anticipated.

Finance.

2. I have great satisfaction in acquainting you not only that there has been no falling off in the prosperous condition of the colonial finances, but that the improvement has been progressive. The fears expressed that the revenue of 1856 would not be quite equal to that of 1855 have not been realized; and it is in the customs, where the largest decrease was anticipated, that one of the largest items of increase will be found.

Revenue of 1855, 1856: Increase.

3. By the report of the Acting Auditor General, it appears that the revenue of 1856 was 504,174*l.* 18*s.* 4¼*d.*; the revenue of 1855, 476,273*l.* 8*s.* 11¼*d.*; showing a net increase of 27,901*l.* 9*s.* 5*d.*

4. The principal heads of increase are:—

	£	s.	d.
Customs - - - - -	7,231*	2	8¾
Land Sales - - - - -	12,303	0	9
Licences - - - - -	6,611	4	4
Stamps - - - - - -	3,151	8	2
Sale of Government property (Salt, &c.) -	3,876	15	2

* In lieu of an anticipated reduction of 12,000*l.*

I must refer for minor details to the auditor's report,* which is, as usual, clear and able.

* Vide Blue Book pages 18 to 58.

Expenditure of 1855, 1856: Increase.

5. The expenditure of 1856, ordinary and supplementary, exceeds that of 1855 by 51,527*l.* 12*s.* 5½*d.*, the one having amounted to 457,137*l.* 5*s.* 4¾*d.*, the other to 405,609*l.* 12*s.* 11¼*d.* Of this increase 6,853*l.* comes under the head of "Establishments," 1,849*l.* of transport, and 23,636*l.* of roads, bridges, buildings, and other public works. There is also a considerable increase in the colonial commissariat (16,796*l.*), which arises from the purchase of a much larger amount of stores, timber, implements, &c., in the colony and in England, in consequence of the extension of the public works.

* 6,853*l.*

* Increase, 4,156*l.*

* Increase, 1,341*l.*

* Increase, 923*l.*

* Increase, 1,849*l.* 16*s.* 3*d.*

6. The increase in establishments* is accounted for mainly by the re-organization of the Supreme Court, with the full complement of judges,* an object of the utmost importance to the proper administration of justice; the difference between the salaries of the Governor and Lieutenant Governor during four months of the year, and a very small instalment of the changes that must take place in the departments both of the Surveyor General,* and of the Commissioner of Public Works,* if those officers are to be placed in a position to meet the growing demands of the colony, and to place the execution of the works for which they are responsible under proper control. The increase in the charge for "Transport"* simply shows that there has been a great increase of activity in the inspection of the different districts of the island on the part of all the Government officers, beginning with myself.

Revenue and expenditure of 1856.

7. The increased revenue exceeded the increased expenditure by 47,037*l.* 12*s.* 11½*d.*

Assets and liabilities on 31st December 1856.

8. The assets of the colony in the table of assets and liabilities show a total of 327,670*l.* 11*s.* 1¾*d.*; the liabilities are 68,024*l.* 5*s.* 6¼*d.*; leaving an apparent

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balance in favour of the Ceylon Government of 259,646*l.* 5*s.* 7½*d.*, but from this must be deducted, as I explained last year, nine tenths of the sum that appears in the assets under the head of "Outstanding Revenue Debts." In 1855 the amount of these was 104,746*l.* 14*s.* 6¼*d.*, of which 11,225*l.* 7*s.* 2½*d.* were alone considered to be recoverable. This year the amount is stated at 103,062*l.* 17*s.* 11¾*d.*, some few of the claims having been liquidated or struck off as irrecoverable, with the assent of Her Majesty's Government; of this, 65,943*l.* 5*s.* 1½*d.* are stated to be "irrecoverable," 28,140*l.* 10*s.* 10¾*d.* are awaiting the decision of the Courts, while there appears to be a reasonable chance of recovering 8,979*l.* 1*s.* 11½*d.*, which I consequently add to the bonâ fide assets. Deducting, therefore, from the gross balance of 259,646*l.* 5*s.* 7½*d.* 94,083*l.* 16*s.* for bad debts, and 2,380*l.* 3*s.* 2*d.* for surcharges, which may be settled by vouchers, and not in money, there remained on the 31st December 1856 a net available balance of 163,182*l.* 6*s.* 5*d.* in favour of the Ceylon Government, and applicable to the public requirements of 1857, in addition to the ordinary revenue of the year.

(Vide Par. 6 of last Blue Book report.)

Treasury notes.

9. Of the Treasury notes, the amount of which originally was 87,500*l.*, 84,751*l.* 17*s.* were cancelled at various times between 1849 and 1856; there now remain only notes to the value of 946*l.* in the Treasury or the cutcherries, which will be cancelled immediately, and 1,802*l.* 3*s.* in the hands of the public, many of which will probably never be presented. Their place in the circulation of the island has been supplied by the notes of the Oriental Bank, not only without inconvenience, but with some advantage to the public, since being payable at Kandy, with a charge of half per cent. for commission, as well as at Colombo, these notes are preferred in the Central Province to the Government notes, which could only be cashed on presentation at the Treasury. The Mercantile Bank still remains in the same position, not having complied with the conditions upon which the notes of the Oriental Bank are received in the cutcherries and other Government establishments.

Balance in Treasury vault.

10. A loan of 50,000*l.* has been made to the Oriental Bank upon the deposit of Indian Government paper to the same amount, which is held on account of the Ceylon Government by the Government of Madras. The bank receives the interest upon its own securities, and pays 2½ per cent. upon the 50,000*l.*, 10,000*l.* of which may be called for by the Government without notice, if required, and the whole amount upon a notice of six months; to this extent, therefore, the unproductive balance* in the Treasury vault is reduced,† and there will be a farther demand upon it in the present year to meet the surplus fund ordinance, amounting to 38,000*l.*

* Vide Par. 8 of previous report.

† By a return just received I find that the amount of money in the Treasury vault on the 30th June 1856 was 130,810*l.*, and on the 30th June 1857, after advancing the 50,000*l.* to the Oriental Bank, 123,560*l.*; difference, 7,250*l.*

Public Works.

11. The amount expended by the department of Public Works during the year was:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Establishment - - -	9,939	8	1
Government Works - - -	88,634	17	7½
Ordinance Labour - - -	17,334	10	0½
Total - -	115,908	15	9

For the detail of this expenditure, which was spread over the whole island, I must refer to the report of the Commissioner of Public Works. The principal items are:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Kandy Road, Upkeep - - -	13,649	5	6¾
Galle Road - - - - -	2,772	14	4¾
Road from Peradenia to Nuwera Ellia -	5,776	8	4
Gampolla Bridge - - - -	2,229	19	1
Peradenia Bridge - - - -	1,755	4	5¼
Natande Canal - - - - -	3,081	17	4¼
Grain Shed (Customs, Colombo) - -	1,425	18	6¼
Clock Tower, Colombo - - -	740	10	11½
Queen's House, Colombo - - -	1,789	0	6¾
Cemetery, Trincomalie - - -	478	5	5½
New Cutcherry - - - -	577	19	11½

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12. I can express my entire satisfaction with the manner in which both the road repairs and the buildings have been executed, under the able superintendence of Major Skinner, and Mr. Churchill, whose appointment as assistant to the civil engineer and Commissioner of Public Works you were pleased to sanction on my recommendation. It is impossible to speak too highly of this gentleman's professional abilities and unremitting industry. The Kandy road, which is under the special superintendence of Mr. Evatt, is in a perfectly satisfactory state, but requires, and will always require, large annual repairs, from the immense amount of traffic upon it, nearly the whole of the coffee crop reaching the coast by this route from the interior. The road from Peradenia to Nuwera Ellia was under partial repair when I reached the island, but the last 14 miles of it were impassable for any conveyance on wheels, to the great loss and injury of the planters in the Badulla district, who paid at one time 14*s.* per cwt. for the conveyance of their coffee to Colombo*; there is now not the slightest difficulty on any part of the road,† which is one of the most striking works in the colony. The suspension bridge at Gampolla is advancing as rapidly as the difficulties attending the supply of stone will admit of; it will replace a most dangerous ferry over the Mahawilla Ganga, and form an easy outlet for the coffee of the Pusilawa, Kotmalie, and Dimbola districts; I hope to see this work completed and the bridge opened for traffic on the Queen's birthday, 1858. The Peradenia Bridge is an indispensable link in the communication with Kandy, and has been completely repaired under the superintendence of Captain Graham. The cost has been heavy in consequence of the large and valuable timber required, but I have great confidence in the stability of the work; and, from the width of the span (206 feet), an iron lattice bridge of sufficient strength would have been much more expensive.

* Vide Minute on Badulla roads, Encl. 3, page 285.

† 46 miles from Kandy.

Natande Canal.

13. The Natande Canal formed the subject of one of my earliest communications to the legislature.* It struck me as much to be regretted that an inland navigation of 86 miles should be interrupted, and the advantages of a water communication between the Government salt depôts at Putlam and the Colombo market lost, from sheer inability to remove an obstruction, the result of ill-judged economy in former years. A personal inspection of the canal satisfied me that the work presented no engineering difficulties; that where there had been a free current of water between the Maha Oya and the northern lakes, there would be a free current again, so soon as the mass of mud which had been allowed to fill up the bed of the canal was removed; and that neither locks nor retaining walls were required to keep the navigation open. It was simply a question of labour and money. The Council having concurred in these views, the work was placed in charge of a very meritorious officer, Mr. Campbell, who commenced operations in September 1855, with a large gang of coolies. I visited the works several times during their progress, and have much satisfaction in stating that they were completed within the estimate (3000*l.*), and that on the 23rd September 1856 the canal was opened from Colombo to Putlam. By this change every boat frequenting it is saved a sum of 32*s.* on its passage, that being the charge made for unloading the cargo at Natande, and conveying it in bullock bandies to the point of re-shipment. It is my intention to establish by ordinance a toll upon boats using the canal, which with proper care will be sufficient to provide for the annual repairs. Accommodation bridges have been built at those points where the cattle of the villages on the west side were in the habit of fording it, in order to reach the paddy fields beyond; and I shall propose to the Council the appointment of an officer whose duty it will be to devote his whole time to the water communication between Putlam and Colombo, upon which I believe the progress of agriculture, the salt revenue, and the fisheries of Negombo mainly to depend.

* Vide Minute, Encl. 2, page 283.

14. The grain shed at Colombo forms part of a series of works that have been undertaken since my arrival here, in order to make the Custom House buildings at all commensurate with the growing trade of the port. Some of these were included in the Supplementary Supply Bill of 1855; others will extend over the whole of the present year. They comprise, besides the grain shed, a new jetty, with cranes, &c., for shipping goods*; an export shed†; an upper story to what is termed the Queen's warehouse‡; a new warehouse§ 188 feet long, parallel with the wall of the fort, but necessarily limited in height

* 1,121*l.* 12*s.* 6½*d.*

† 380*l.*

‡ 842*l.* 15*s.* 11*d.*

§ 642*l.*

by the engineer department; the filling up of a piece of old canal which interfered with the approach to the jetty; and a second grain or import shed,* which will not be completed till next year. With these additions, I consider the Custom House of Colombo to be nearly as complete and commodious an establishment as it is possible to form in so limited a space. How the business was conducted previously I do not know.

* 2,436*l.* 14*s.* 2*d.*

15. The clock tower has given to the inhabitants of Colombo an advantage which they ought to have enjoyed 42 years ago, that being the time during which a clock, that cost originally 1,200*l.*, was allowed to remain in the commissariat stores, to avoid the expense of putting it up. It is highly creditable to those who had charge of it, that the works have not been injured during this long period, though they have cost 280*l.* for cleaning and oil. The clock tower, which is 96 feet high, was completed by Mr. Churchill, and the clock is now both a convenience and an ornament to the town. The repairs of the Queen's house were a matter of absolute necessity, since the roof admitted the rain in every part. They have been completed in a most substantial and satisfactory manner, and, with the exception of a small wooden verandah attached to the drawing-room, which is not safe, I do not think that the building will require any farther outlay for many years, beyond the 100*l.* voted for painting and incidental repairs. The votes for the cutcherry and cemetery at Trincomalie are fully explained in my Minute on the Eastern Province.*

* Vide Minute, Encl. 6, page 309.

Surveying Department.

16. The short but interesting report of the Surveyor General shows the progress of his department in the year 1856, and the results accomplished with very inadequate means. The surveys in the central and western provinces comprehended 13,132 acres of land advertised, of which 9,888 acres were sold within the year, the price realized being 18,172*l.* 6*s.* 2*d*; this, with 2,134*l.* 19*s.* 6*d.* in fees, made the total receipts of the department 20,307*l.* 5*s.* 8*d.*, while the expenditure was 8,300*l.* 10*s.* 4*d.* The expenditure includes a variety of charges unconnected with the actual surveys of crown land, such as encroachment cases, of which 252 were investigated, and 179 decided; the purchase of instruments* (312*l.*); the mapping and surveying of 40 miles of main road; the completion of the Matelle survey, to the peculiar circumstances of which I adverted in paragraph 20 of my previous report; and the training of eighteen sub-assistants, four of whom I regret to say have already quitted the department in consequence of the severity of the work. Notwithstanding these drawbacks, the absence of two assistant surveyors, and the inefficiency of two others from failing health, the quantity of land advertised in 1856 exceeds that of any previous year since 1845. The financial results leave a gain of 12,006*l.* to the revenue, deducting the total expenditure from the total receipts for land and fees; and the costs of the survey have been reduced by 4*s.* 4¼*d.* per acre, which upon 13,132 acres amounts to 2,858*l.* 18*s.* 11*d.*

Encl. 1, page 283.

* Since lost in the "Sumatra."

17. I regard this simply as an indication of the good that might be done if the department had a really efficient staff under its present highly efficient head; but from this we are just as far removed as ever. The present staff of assistant surveyors, with two exceptions, Mr. Noad and Mr. Braybrooke, are men no longer fit for the out-of-door duties of their situation, the trying nature of which it is difficult to overrate. Out of 19 officers who have entered the surveying department during the last 16 years, only one has served ten years. A life of hardships, exposure to climate, the difficulty and cost of obtaining the necessaries of life when camping in the jungle for months together, the inadequacy of the pay, and the hard conditions attached to the obtaining a pension, for which a service of 15 years is required, have discouraged the boldest, and destroyed the weak. No professional man in England will enter a service so hazardous and so ill requited. The attempt to raise up a nursery of surveyors taken from the burgher class within the colony itself has failed, not from want of ability in those who came forward, but from want of stamina for the work. And these experiments in educating young men, who first acquire their experience at the expense of the colony, and then take it to a better market, are costly and disappointing to all concerned. If the department be really of vital importance to the progress of Ceylon, as has been admitted in almost the whole of the official correspondence by the Secretary of

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State, but more particularly in Lord Grey's Despatch to Lord Torrington of 18th June 1847, it should be efficiently constituted, and then kept well up to its work. Competent men should be induced to enter it by the offer of fair remuneration, and early retirement if required by failing health. There should be one assistant surveyor to each province at least, with an adequate staff, available for any surveys that may be required, whether connected with the Government rents or with the sale of Government lands. The "Minutes" which it is my intention to append to this Despatch, containing the results of my various tours of inspection, will show to what account this system might be turned, and how essential it is as a check upon wholesale frauds in the commutation of paddy lands*; and if with the present most inadequate establishment, the Surveyor General can point to a gain of 12,006*l.* as the results of the year, there cannot be a doubt that this amount might be tripled or quadrupled if the means were commensurate with the end proposed, and if the work that must be done in the course of the next ten years were thus to be undertaken upon a comprehensive and consequently an economical plan. The subject will occupy the attention of the Legislative Council when it comes to the final vote upon the fixed establishments; and I feel confident, from the aid which you have been kind enough to give to the colony in the partial attempts made to increase the surveying establishment, that any well-digested scheme of this nature will receive the consideration which it deserves.

Encl. 2, page 285.
Encl. 3, page 287.
Encl. 4, page 292.
Encl. 5, page 304.
Encl. 6, page 311.
Encl. 7, page 329.

* Vide Second Minute on Eastern Province, Encl. 7, page 329.

Legislation.

18. The session of 1856 presented, both in the number and importance of the legislative measures passed, all of which have had the good fortune to receive Her Majesty's sanction, a striking contrast to that of 1855. The state of the finances, the knowledge of the island which I had acquired, and the cordial support given to every useful proposal by the Legislative Council, enabled the Government to bring forward some measures which, like the penny postage, had long been kept back, on prudential grounds, and to moot others respecting which opinion had been divided, with a fair prospect of success. The programme of the session will be found in my opening speech, a copy of which I have the honour to annex to this report, as every proposal contained in it was ultimately carried out, with the exception of the banking ordinance, which there were reasons for suspending, and the ordinance for facilitating the commutation of the Government tithe on paddy lands, to which valid objections were raised. These, however, I hope to be able to remove.

Encl. 8, page 336.

Railway ordinance.

19. The railway ordinance, as the most important measure of the session, was naturally that respecting which the greatest differences of opinion prevailed. It involved a 2½ per cent. export duty, bearing principally upon the staple produce of the island,—coffee, and affecting disadvantageously many existing engagements, however great its prospective good. There was under these circumstances considerable opposition to the confirmation of the provisional agreement concluded by yourself on behalf of the colony with the Ceylon Railway Company; and this opposition was increased by the possibility of an indefinite liability being incurred, it being impossible to fix a limit of expenditure upon a line which had not been actually surveyed. The acceptance of the agreement was therefore made conditional upon the expenditure not exceeding 1,200,000*l.*; but, thanks to your ready compliance with the address of the Council upon this point, and to the satisfactory results of Captain Moorsom's survey, to which I cannot allude farther, as it belongs properly to the present year, all differences of opinion respecting the railway have ceased in the colony, and there is an universal desire to see the work commenced.

Other Acts of the session.

20. The Act for establishing an uniform system of penny postage; the Irrigation Act, which has been so highly and generally appreciated by the native population; the ordinance for the settlement of claims connected with temple lands; the four ordinances for improving the administration of justice; the liberal estimates for public works; and the Surplus Fund Bill, providing for the construction of an electric telegraph from Galle to Manaar*, the purchase of a steamer to go round the island monthly*, a grant for irrigation works†, the extension of the department of the Surveyor General*, and the continuation of the road between Jaffna and the Elephant Pass in the northern province*, and the improvement of the Trincomalie Road between Matelle and Dambool*,—

* 17,000*l.*
* 10,000*l.* †4,000*l.*
* 3,000*l.*
* 1,500*l.*
* 1,500*l.*

are all matters to which the Government may look back with unmixed satisfaction, and which, taken collectively, constitute a remarkable epoch in the legislation of Ceylon. All these measures have received Her Majesty's assent. The penny postage came into operation on the 1st of April of the present year. The electric telegraph is in process of construction. The steamer has been ordered in England. And I trust that the island will soon receive a return for so liberal an application of its means, by the happy results which this expenditure is calculated to produce.

Public Health

21. The public health has been throughout the past year in a most satisfactory state; there has been no epidemic. A few isolated cases of cholera have occurred, but the disease has never spread, in spite of a daily communication with India viâ Manaar, and the absence of all precautions as regards quarantine.

Imports and Exports.

22. The imports of the three last years were:—

	£
1854 - - -	1,225,350
1855 - - -	1,457,770
1856 - - -	1,672,583

The exports were:—

1854 - - -	1,236,938
1855 - - -	1,350,410
1856 - - -	1,509,087

There is, therefore, an increase in the imports of 214,813*l.* as compared with 1855, and of 447,233*l.* as compared with 1854; and an increase in the exports of 158,677*l.* as compared with 1855, and of 272,149*l.* as compared with 1854. The export of cinnamon was

730,600 lbs. in 1855, and
909,033 lbs. in 1856,

showing an increase of 178,433 lbs. But coffee fell from 506,540 cwts. in 1855 to 440,819 in 1856, showing a decrease of 65,721 cwts., notwithstanding the larger breadth of land under crop. The revenue derived from imports and exports was:—

	£	s.	d.
1855 - - -	143,040	19	0
1856 - - -	149,397	17	9

out of a total revenue of 504,174*l.*

Education.

23. The report of the Central School Commission contains all the information that it is in my power to give upon this subject. The system continues unaltered, but I see indications of a growing desire for change.

Pearl Fishery.

24. No fishery was expected or took place during the year 1856, but the inspection of the banks in October confirmed the reports previously received as to the prospect of an abundant supply of oysters both in 1857 and 1859.* The pearl fishery may therefore be again regarded as a valuable addition to the financial resources of the colony; and I am not without hopes that a closer investigation of the habits of the pearl oyster, and of the laws that apparently regulate its production, may afford the means of lessening the fluctuations that have occurred during the last twenty years.

25. The reports of the civil engineer and commissioner of roads and deputy commissary general on the Government houses and furniture at Colombo and Kandy are subjoined.

26. I trust, Sir, that you will consider the facts embodied in this report as affording conclusive proofs that the colony is in a healthy and satisfactory state; that the means at the disposal of the Government have been applied to legitimate ends; and that the larger expenditure on roads, bridges, and public

* *Note.*—As regards the present year, this expectation has been fully realized, the number of oysters fished having been 32,453,053, and the amount realized, at very low rates, 20,163*l.*

Government houses and furniture.
Encl. 9, page 342.
Encl. 10, page 342.

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works has added to the resources of the colony, instead of exhausting them, by encouraging industry and developing trade. The large estimates sanctioned for the year 1857 have already proved insufficient to meet the general demand for improvements of various kinds, and I have been forced to sanction advances to be charged against the supplementary vote, or to disappoint expectations which the state of the finances warranted, after the results of the Aripo fishery were ascertained. In general, I may assure you that the population is thriving, employment abundant, business increasing; and that I see nothing within the island itself to make me doubt the soundness of the policy which I have been enabled by your confidence, and the co-operation of the Executive and Legislative Councils, to pursue.

27. I should close here my remarks upon the progress and prospects of Ceylon, if a paper* had not been laid before Parliament containing certain statements in reply to my Despatch of last year, which it is impossible for me to leave unnoticed without an apparent acquiescence in their justice. I allude to the letter addressed by Viscount Torrington to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, on the 17th January 1857.

* Vide House of Commons Paper No. 45, Sess. 2. of 1857.

28. In the first place this letter is founded upon an entire misapprehension of the facts. I had not the slightest intention of instituting any comparison between the merits or demerits of my own administration and that of my predecessors. I had been here too short a time in 1856 to lay claim to any other merit than that of having endeavoured to qualify myself for the task which I had before me, by making myself personally acquainted with the island committed to my care. The "Minutes" appended to this Despatch show the state in which I found it, and the urgent necessity of a much larger expenditure upon public works than the state of the revenue had warranted under my immediate predecessor, Sir George Anderson, or under Lord Torrington himself, as I believed and as his Lordship proves, for he states distinctly, that on assuming the government of Ceylon, in May 1847, "he found "its treasury nearly empty, its current expenditure largely in excess of its "annual income, its commerce declining, the cultivation of its staple products, "coffee and cinnamon, suddenly arrested, and its general condition rapidly "leading to bankruptcy." Letter, p. 2. He adds in a subsequent paragraph: "That the expenditure for 1846 had exceeded the income by 81,801*l.*, and "that the balance in the hands of the Government on the 1st January 1847 "was reduced to the sum of 54,592*l.*, against which were to be set the out-"standing liabilities of the Government, including 80,000*l.* of notes in circu-"lation on the faith of its security." Letter, p. 4.

29. I believe this description to be perfectly accurate, and I think Lord Torrington entitled to the highest credit for the firmness with which he reduced establishments, and suppressed every unnecessary outlay, until he brought his expenditure into accordance with his receipts; and it was to this, and to the demands entailed upon him by the rebellion of 1848, when 50,000*l.* were borrowed of the Oriental Bank, the last instalment of which was not repaid until after Lord Torrington left the island in 1850, that I alluded when I said "that it was his fate, as it was that of Sir G. Anderson, to enter "upon the government of this colony at a time when progress was impossible "(always adverting to public works), and when the most rigid economy was "required to balance the expenditure with the receipts." I illustrated this in the case of Sir G. Anderson, by showing that so late as 1852, when the outlay of the year exceeded the income by 1,065*l.*, he was warned of the necessity of greater circumspection by the Secretary of State; and I added, that "under these circumstances many things must obviously have been "omitted that it was most desirable to do; improvement was out of the "question; repairs, where it was possible, were postponed in the hope of better "times; salaries were reduced*; revenue and judicial offices combined,† which "a short experience has compelled the Government again to separate. And it "is to the firmness with which this painful duty was fulfilled during a period "of seven years (from 1848 to 1855) by my two predecessors, aided by "Mr. MacCarthy, who, both as Colonial Secretary and as Lieutenant-"Governor, most ably seconded their efforts, that I am indebted for the very "different state of things which I have had the good fortune to find here."*

* Vide Blue Book on Fixed Establishments, 1849.

† At Badulla and Batticaloa.

* Blue Book, Despatch of 1856, pars. 28, 29.

30. Did I claim any, the slightest, credit for this change? On the contrary, I said distinctly, "No merit is due to me" for this improvement; "I am pro-

" fiting by the labours of others, and by a prosperity that I have found, not " made. My sole duty is so to avail myself of the altered circumstances of " the colony as to advance its farther development, by submitting to you " plans founded upon an accurate knowledge of the localities to which they " apply, not too large for present resources, yet large enough to meet the " general demand for improved means of communication, and for an expanding " field on which to employ native industry."*

* Blue Book, Despatch, par. 29.

31. I really am at a loss, on recurring to this passage after the lapse of a year, and with Lord Torrington's letter before me, to understand by what unhappy ingenuity it can have been distorted into a charge of "utter help- " lessness" against his administration, or that I can be imagined to have meant to insinuate in a Despatch, every line of which was communicated to Mr. MacCarthy, who filled the same post under Lord Torrington that he fills under me, that his Lordship was "so paralysed by apprehension as to be incapable " of action," and that in this timid and do-nothing policy "he was ably " seconded by Mr. MacCarthy himself."

32. I was not the judge of Lord Torrington's administration. I was not writing a history of Ceylon. I simply wished—and those who have known me longest in public life will give me most credit for sincerity in the declaration—to reconcile an alteration of policy, which I thought that the circumstances of the colony warranted and required, with that which my predecessors had been compelled to pursue, in the manner least likely to be offensive to their feelings or their friends.

33. I have now disposed of the first of Lord Torrington's charges. I meant no reflection upon him, and I believe that none can be deduced from my last year's Despatch, if their common meaning be given to common words. His lordship must choose, however, between the credit due for a wise economy and for a lavish expenditure on public works; he cannot unite the two, though I willingly admit that he did all that it was possible to do under the circumstances that he has himself described.

34. But there is a graver accusation still to meet. "Inexperience and want " of proper information,"—for Lord Torrington has the goodness to acquit me of disingenuousness in the matter,—have prevented me from doing justice to a policy to which I owe the prosperity of which I am reaping the fruits,— " a prosperity which I am unable to account for," but which I refuse to ascribe to its real author, and to the legislation introduced at his suggestion between 1847 and 1850. Lord Torrington repeats this accusation in every possible shape. He says (page 2), "I entertained a natural confidence that the present " Governor, with opportunities of personal observation and experience, would " have been enabled to trace my policy in its effects, and to render by his " testimony to its soundness and effects that justice which has been so long " withheld from me."

Again, "Sir H. Ward ascribes to his "recent arrival" in the island a want of information which "farther experience" will supply, "and I content myself, " therefore, with the expression of my regret that those officers of his Govern- " ment who were formerly connected with mine should have failed to direct his " attention to the proceedings of the years between 1847 and 1849, when " the policy which is now producing its results in the prosperity by which the " Governor is surrounded was introduced at my instance." Page 2.

Again, "One of my earliest measures was framed with a view to the liberation " and encouragement of commerce, by a revision of the tariff and an amend- " ment of the customs law." Page 5.

Again, "An ordinance was passed within a very few months from the date " of my arrival by which all export duties were abolished, with the exception " of that upon cinnamon (which was, however, reduced from 1*s.* to 4*d.* per lb.); " the tariff on enumerated articles was revised; and the duty on imports, " including British manufactures, equalised at 5 per cent. ad valorem." Page 5.

Again, "Permit me to call your attention to the road ordinance, which " Sir H. Ward so highly estimates, but the origin of which he has evidently " failed to be informed of, or he would have seen by a reference to the " proceedings of the Executive Council of 1848 that a Minute of my own " originated that measure."

Again, "I incurred, for the sake of my successors, the annual expense of a " steamer to watch the pearl banks, which very possibly might have yielded a

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" still larger sum to Sir H. Ward, but for the error committed after my " departure by the sale of that steamer." Page 7.

35. If all these useful and desirable measures had really originated with Lord Torrington, I should indeed be most ungrateful had I "ignored them," as he states me to have done, or had I not formally recorded my obligations to the author of so salutary a change; but, without the slightest disrespect to his Lordship, I must demur to this claim. I might just as well call myself the author of these measures as Lord Torrington, because during 15 years I supported in Parliament, as a very humble member of the free trade party, principles that first assumed a legislative form in the tariff of Sir Robert Peel in 1842; but which, when successfully tested at home, it became the object of all thinking men to extend to the colonies. The precise mode in which they were to be made applicable to Ceylon was the subject of consideration with Lord Stanley and Mr. Gladstone in 1845 and 1846, as it became subsequently with Lord Grey, who referred it to a committee composed of Sir B. Hawes (then Under Secretary for the Colonies), Mr. Lefevre (Secretary of the Board of Trade), Mr. Tufnell (Secretary of the Treasury), and Mr. Bird (of the East India Company's Service), whose joint report, dated April 13, 1847, was communicated to Lord Torrington on the 18th June, by Earl Grey, with instructions "to consider it as expressing, in general, the views which Her " Majesty's Government entertain as to the course that ought to be taken for " improving the revenue of Ceylon, and for the application of it towards many " works of the highest public utility."

36. This was Lord Torrington's mission, and had he claimed credit for executing it with firmness and ability under circumstances of considerable difficulty, I should have been the first to offer to him my meed of praise. But the principles to be introduced, the branches of the revenue to which they were to be applied; the abolition of the duty on exports, including coffee; the reduction and ultimate extinction of the cinnamon duty, as the only hope of reinvigorating a failing trade; the assimilation of duties on British and foreign goods imported, were all recommendations emanating from the committee, largely discussed in Sir E. Tennent's Financial Report,* and many of them, especially the abolition of the cinnamon duty, strongly advocated by Sir Colin Campbell in November 1846, towards whom Lord Torrington evinces as little gratitude as he accuses me of showing towards himself.

* Oct. 22, 1846.

37. With regard to the road ordinance, which, when well administered, is one of the most useful measures ever passed in this island, I confess that I am greatly surprised at the account of its origin given in Lord Torrington's letter, as it has hitherto been universally believed in Ceylon that the bill was framed by Mr. Wodehouse, the present Governor of British Guiana, aided upon some points by Mr. Dyke, the Government agent for the northern province, and carried through the Council with few or no amendments, as might have been expected from the long experience and eminently practical character of the two gentlemen to whom it was and is ascribed. Lord Torrington, however, has the merit of having seen its value, and of having given the measure his full support.

38. The services of the steamer might have been valuable had it been employed, as Lord Torrington no doubt believed that it had been; but a return in my possession shows that it only visited the pearl banks three times in eleven years,—once on the 19th of October 1840, returning November 15th; once on the 28th February 1848, returning 31st March*; and once on the 23rd October 1851, when Lord Torrington had left the island, returning November 25th. In the intervals between these trips the steamer was used for general purposes, and was ultimately given up, because those purposes were not thought of sufficient importance to warrant the expense.

* This was under Lord Torrington's administration.

39. I shall now retire from a controversy into which I have been drawn reluctantly, and which it certainly was not my intention to provoke. I trust that I have not dealt discourteously with anything that Lord Torrington has advanced; but the error that seems to me to pervade his letter is this,—that he overrates what a Governor can do for a community, and underrates what the community does for itself, especially where, as in Ceylon, there is a large infusion of Anglo Saxon blood. No doubt it is right in principle to remove all legislative obstacles to the free development of trade; but the results are often affected by causes that no legislation can reach. I desire no better proof of

this than the two reductions of duty upon which Lord Torrington principally relies, coffee and cinnamon. The entire removal of the duty on cinnamon has done little to reanimate the trade in that article. Why? Because it was already superseded in the European market by cassia, a cheaper and coarser spice, with which cinnamon can never successfully compete. Coffee, on the other hand, has found a constantly increasing demand in the growing consumption of England, Germany, and France. The Legislative Council of Ceylon has therefore, with perfect propriety, replaced the duty of 2½ per cent. which Lord Torrington took off, conceiving that the promised equivalent—a railway for which the duty forms a guarantee—will do infinitely more good than the duty will do harm, by giving to the planting districts a cheaper and quicker communication with the port of shipment.

40. My own conviction is, that the repeal of the duty has had as little influence upon the increase of coffee cultivation during the last ten years, as its reimposition will have in checking it. This increase is due to many concurrent causes,—a demand in Europe which the old coffee-growing countries were unable to supply, and, as a necessary consequence, remunerating prices; the facility of acquiring land in Ceylon at a moderate upset price, and the advantage of holding it under the safeguard of English law. Add to this a climate more congenial to English habits than that of Cuba or Brazil, with a soil as well suited to the growth of coffee, now that its peculiarities are understood; a Legislative Council with many of the realities of representative government, and complete freedom of the press;—all these are things that attract Englishmen, and when once the nucleus of an Anglo-Saxon community is formed, all that a Government has to do is to give its energies fair play.

41. It is the great commercial movement thus created that is carrying the vessel into port. It shows itself in everything,—the increase in the customs, the rise in the value of land, the larger receipts from tolls, salt, arrack, rice, the number of vessels frequenting the harbour, a higher standard of living amongst all classes, both European and native, and consequently a larger consumption of all their necessaries and luxuries that the trade with Europe supplies; with an annually increasing investment of capital both in agriculture and trade. I watch this movement with the deepest interest; but, far from considering that the Government is the author of it, I can only hope that it may be enabled to keep pace with the efforts of the community, and that when my time here expires it may be said of me and of those who administer the Government with me, that by a prudent use of the larger means at our disposal we contributed something towards the general result.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. H. Labouchere, &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) H. G. WARD.

Enclosure 1 in No. 35.

Encl. 1 in No. 35.

(No. 67.)

Surveyor General's Office, Colombo, June 10, 1857.

SIR,

IN compliance with the Minute of April 25, 1853, I have the honour to forward the Progress Report of this department for the past year.

Notwithstanding that two assistant surveyors were useless on account of ill health, that two others from the same or other causes afforded me but limited assistance, and that the cost of training eighteen sub-assistants (four of whom resigned), as well as the charge of 312*l.* 8*s.* 10*d.* for new instruments (since lost), are included in the expenditure quoted in the return, the increase in progress, and decrease in relative cost, of the year 1856 as compared with 1855, or with an average taken from an approximate summary of preceding years, is considerable.

The improvement is, however, cæteris paribus, less than it would have been had the system of accounts for this department been adapted to its peculiarities, in the manner I recommended shortly after my arrival in the colony.

I have, &c.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary.

(Signed) W. DRISCOLL GOSSET.

Sub-Enclosure in Enclosure 1 in No. 35.

PROGRESS RETURN of the Surveyor General's Department from 1st January to 31st December 1856, showing the Number of Lots and Quantity of Land in each Province advertised for Sale in the Gazette of 1856, the Number of Lots and Quantity of Land sold in each Province, the Prices realized, the Fees recovered by the Surveyor General's Department, and the Expense of the Department, during the same Period.

ADVERTISED IN 1856.

No. of Lots.	——	Contents. A.	R.	P.	Remarks.
113	Central Province - -	9,071	0	33	116 Trigonometrical Stations were erected and observed from for the fixation of surveys.
30	Western Province - -	4,060	3	14	
		13,132	0	7	

SOLD IN 1856.

No. of Lots.	——	Contents. A.	R.	P.	Amount for which Sold. £	s.	d.	Remarks.
90	Central Province - -	7,370	3	30	13,018	7	11	
91	Western Province - -	2,517	0	20·4	5,153	18	3	
		9,888	0	10·4	18,172	6	2	-

EXPENDITURE.

		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Salaries -	Fixed - - -	3,424	17	9			
	Provisional and temporary -	1,612	11	4			
					5,037	9	1
Variable -	Contingencies - -	166	4	10			
	Transport - - -	405	5	6			
	Miscellaneous - -	2,379	2	1			
	New Instruments - -	312	8	10			
					3,263	1	3
Total Expenditure for 1856 - -					£8,300	10	4

RECEIPTS.

	£	s.	d.
By amount of fees received during the year 1856:—			
Central Province - - - -	1,608	19	2
Western Province - - -	460	1	8
North-Western Province - - -	20	10	1
On copies of plans issued to different parties	45	8	7
	£2,134	19	6
Total Receipts by sale of Land, and Fees - -	£20,307	5	8

GENERAL REMARKS.

In addition to the regular surveys, other operations were carried on, such as surveys for local purposes, for connection of the work, &c. Forty miles of main roads were surveyed and mapped, and the survey of the town of Matelle considerably advanced.

In the town surveyor's branch, 252 cases of encroachment were investigated, and 179 removed.

In the department generally, improvements have been steadily introduced, by which, notwithstanding the absence of two and inefficiency of two other assistant surveyors, and that the cost of training 18 sub-assistants (of whom four have quitted), and that 312*l.* 8*s.* 10*d.* for instruments (since lost), have been charged in the expenditure, the average cost per acre quoted by the last committee on the survey department has been reduced by 4*s.* 4¼*d.* per acre; or, in other words, on the 13,132 acres advertised a saving of 2,858*l.* 18*s.* 11*d.* has been effected.

The total expenditure, deducted from the total receipts by sales and fees, leaves a gain of 12,006*l.* 15*s.* 4*d.* in favour of the revenue.

The outstanding applications for coffee land on the 1st January 1856 were 75, amounting to 10,579 acres; at the end of 1856, No. 91, acres 14,838.

The quantity of land advertised in 1856 exceeds that of any previous year since 1845.

(Signed) W. DRISCOLL GOSSET.

Surveyor General's Office, Colombo, June 10, 1857.

(True copies.)
R. BRAYBROOK.

Enclosure 2 in No. 35.

MINUTE ON THE NATANDE CANAL.

I HAVE carefully inspected the water communication between Colombo and Madampe, during the last few days, and have much pleasure in laying before the Council the result of my observations.

I do not consider that there is any difficulty whatsoever in obtaining and retaining the necessary depth of water for all the purposes of the usual traffic with Negombo and Putlam, between the mouth of the river at Mutwall and the Negombo lake. A few pieces of retaining wall, where requisite, and some obvious and simple precautions against the free entrance of mud and sand from the adjoining paddy fields into the bed of the canal, will supply all that is wanted at a moderate cost. Constant supervision, and a power in the superintendent immediately to remedy small defects upon his own responsibility,—instead of waiting for estimates and references, during which the evil may increase an hundredfold, and serious injury be done,—are more essential than a large outlay. But it is satisfactory to know, that where stone is wanting for walls or drainage pits, it is to be found in abundance and close at hand.

Between Negombo and Natande there is also no difficulty. The line of the water communication is traced out by nature's own hand. The supply of water is abundant enough to keep up, at all seasons, the depth required for the navigation (4 feet), and in parts of the canal not actually in use I have found a depth of from 4 feet to 5½ and 6 feet.

The sole interruption in the continuous line that ought to unite Colombo with Putlam occurs for 1½ mile between Natande and Madampe, beginning a mile to the north of the first place, and ending about the same distance below the bridge by which you approach the latter.

Here (above Natande) the excavations conducted by Mr. Campbell with much ability and success, until he was deserted by his labourers (whose numbers had been reduced by thirty deaths from fever), suddenly cease; and the Government has before it a report from this gentleman, pointing out the difficulties under which the latter part of his work had been conducted, from the numerous landslips that had occurred in consequence of the height of the banks of the canal, and of their tendency to give way when saturated with water from the surrounding paddy fields, which cover a large extent of country at a high level on both sides of the canal, and are allowed to discharge into it whatever is washed off them in heavy rains, without any precautions being taken to separate the water from the sand and mud.

These deposits, in the present state of the canal, necessarily remain undisturbed, there being no current of water to carry them off; and, with the occasional subsiding of the banks, may well have discouraged Mr. Campbell, with the small force at his command, though I do not think that they ought ever to have induced him to contemplate the abandonment of the work.

The fact is, that there is no engineering difficulty attending it worthy of the name. The banks of the canal do not, in any place, exceed 25 feet in height, and that only upon a very small portion of the line. Four-fifths of these banks are perfectly sound; and in those parts where slips have occurred, they are fully accounted for, in my judgment, either by the fact that they border upon one of the openings through which the drainage of the surrounding country passes into the canal, without the slightest attempt to give a proper direction to it, and to limit its effects; or that herds of buffaloes and native cattle have been allowed to establish crossings, where they pass and repass at pleasure, wearing down and levelling the banks.

Both these obstacles must be got rid of, and they may be so at a very trifling expense, when compared with the two remedies proposed,—a double lock, and a retaining wall; neither of which, in my opinion, would be of the slightest use.

The cost of the double lock is estimated by Mr. Smith at 3,309*l.*, and its effect would be simply to destroy the excellent natural level that already exists. A lock, wherever I have seen it applied, is intended to correct a difference of level, which could not otherwise be surmounted by boats; but between Natande and Madampe there is no such difference. And if by confining the water at both ends of the mile and a half, not yet excavated, we were to succeed in establishing a higher level for that space than is to be found above or below it, the result would be that boats must be lifted whichever way they were going, and lowered again when they came to the opposite lock.

The proof of this is, not only that the canal was once navigable from Putlam to the Maha Oya, but that there is no perceptible fall or current on either side of the present obstruction; so that the water on the Madampe side is only prevented from uniting with the water on the Natande side by an intervening bed of mud, from four to five feet in depth, which has not yet been cleared away.

When once this mud is removed, there is little doubt that the action of the water itself will do much to prevent its re forming; so that the one thing needful is to prevent accidental deposits of earth, by strengthening the banks where the soil is loose, and by giving a proper direction to the drainage from the neighbouring land

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The best mode of doing what is required will be to make a liberal use of piles, as is done in every railway cutting in England, where the soil will not stand of itself, or where the inclination is too steep to allow of its doing so;—and this, not by using large and costly piling, but by an abundant use of smaller piles driven into the bank, in three or four successive tiers, with clay rammed in above and between them, where further strengthening is required. I have seen this tried repeatedly, with the best effects, in England, and there is every facility for making the experiment here, where wood is abundant and cheap.

I am perfectly satisfied that by taking these precautions a most useful work may be completed in a very short time, without the risk or the annual outlay that we have been taught to apprehend; and I have consequently directed estimates to be prepared for the remaining mile and a half of excavation, which could not be begun, properly or profitably, before January next year.

For the meantime, I am of opinion that a large provision of piles should be made out of the 700*l.* remaining upon the vote for this year; and that Mr. Evatt should be instructed to prepare plans and estimates for forming one or two drainage pits at the points where the largest amount of drainage now comes in, with masonry work attached to them, which may serve as a model for such others as may be required. These pits it will be necessary to clear out at stated times, at the cost either of the proprietors of the adjoining lands or of the Road Commission.

I must, however, observe, that the success of this or any other system that can be adopted depends upon a constant and vigilant superintendence.

It is unfair and unreasonable to suppose that an officer in charge of work of this description, half way to Putlam, can take charge of similar works within three miles of Colombo, and be responsible also for the repair of the roads between these two points. Such arrangements are equally injurious to the Government and to its servants. They are the worst economy on the one side, and the most certain discouragement on the other; for good men feel that no amount of physical exertion can enable them to satisfy such expectations, or to do well what they cannot personally inspect.

In England, with the highest trained labour in the world, no engineer or contractor would undertake the 1½ mile of canal to which this minute refers, without having a practical man on the spot, to whom he would confide the working plans, with the entire responsibility of carrying them out accurately. In Ceylon, it is assumed that a young man, willing and zealous, but not professing to be an engineer, can train and direct a gang of 300 labourers, wholly without experience, in a work requiring the greatest care, and leave them to their own devices for four days out of six, this being the maximum of time that he could give in the week to the Natande cutting, if forced to attend to other duties 20 and 30 miles off.

It is my intention, therefore, to propose to the Executive, and subsequently to the Legislative Council, that Mr. Campbell be relieved from all duties south of the Maha Oya from the 1st of October next, and be directed to consider the opening of the canal to Putlam as his sole and peculiar care. I propose to assure him, that in this he shall have all reasonable aid and encouragement from the Government, which, being fully aware of the small amount of engineering talent now available in the colony for works of this description, will give him the more credit for difficulties successfully overcome. I should place in his hands the organization of the gang of labourers required for the work, and authorize him to offer a rate of pay somewhat beyond the ordinary rate, in consideration of the severity and unwholesomeness of the labour. And if unforeseen obstacles occur, which I see no reason to apprehend, I think that the whole engineering ability of the colony, military and civil, should be brought to bear upon them; and I cannot doubt that the Major-General, with his usual kindness, would afford any temporary assistance in the way of inspection and advice that might be required.

But in one way or the other the work must be done, for it would be a disgrace to Ceylon if the island were to lose the benefit of eighty-two miles of water communication in constant use up to 1836, because for one mile and a half the passage of boats is obstructed by an accumulation of mud, the fruit not of any great natural convulsion, but of continued neglect.

Had a fair portion of the tolls received up to 1836 been expended in annual repairs, no such interruption could have occurred; and having been for many years a trustee of the river Lea, which forms a short but important communication of about thirty miles between London, Herts, and Essex, I can inform the Executive Council, as a proof of the spirit in which these things are conducted when properly managed, that the trustees were perfectly satisfied when the expenditure of the year did not exceed the receipts, and that they were frequently obliged to incur debts upon the security of the tolls, to effect desirable improvements or to repair accidental damages.

At present the tolls that the Government might receive upon the Negombo canal are absorbed by the heavy demand for cartage between Natande and Madampe, while the traffic by water is discouraged by the delay, risk, and cost of this unshipping and reshipping of goods, for which the most inadequate arrangements are made.

I see reason to believe that the water carriage between Negombo and Putlam may be reopened from point to point, and the banks properly secured, at an expense not exceeding 3,000*l.*; and I hope that the Executive Council will concur with me in the propriety of

including a vote for this amount in the estimates for 1856. The 700*l.* now in hand should, as I have already suggested, be employed in such preliminary works as can be undertaken during the present year.

I am assured that the whole expense will not exceed 3,000*l.*, but it is better to have a margin in works of this description; and I therefore recommend an additional vote of 3,000*l.*, with the expression of my conviction that the object in view will be certainly and permanently attained for this sum, and the canal opened for general use within eighteen months after the works are commenced.

I shall only further remark that the same causes that have been fatal to the Negombo canal appear to me to be in equally dangerous operation as regards the bridges upon the whole line of road that I have traversed. Constructed, in the first instance, with a miserable parsimony, and consequently liable to perpetual damage from the giving way of planks not properly secured, or not substantial enough for the traffic, there is no one with powers to make repairs upon the spot when requisite; not a nail can be put in, or a rotten plank taken out, without an estimate,—possibly a surcharge,—certainly a lengthened correspondence, and the bridge is ruined before the forms are complied with.

In England every bridge would have its trustees, responsible for its maintenance, for which they are legally liable. Here, where the Government is the only trustee for the public, there is no such responsibility. The work of decay goes on unchecked and unnoticed, because, though we have officers, and good officers too, at the head of the department of Public Works, they cannot take a load of gravel from their own depôts, or a plank from the nearest store, without written permission from the Government. My conviction is, that men in situations of this nature must have a certain discretionary power, and be held responsible for its exercise. There cannot be too much strictness in accounts, and charges that can be foreseen ought always to be included in the estimates for the year. But there must also be a power of prompt action within certain limits, where required; and this as a matter of right, not of favour or indulgence.

I took the liberty of ordering the immediate repair of the Natande Bridge, which I found in so ruinous a state that we were forced to lead our horses over it, one by one, and at some distance from each other; and the Madampe Bridge is in an equally discreditable condition, many of the planks being rotten, and some entirely wanting.

Having communicated this minute to the Director of Public Works, I have the pleasure of finding that he entirely concurs in my views, both as to the probable amount of expenditure and the practicability of the plan proposed.

I beg, therefore, to recommend that Mr. Campbell be placed in charge of the works upon the canal between the Maha Oya and Madampe, so soon as a successor can be found for him in the Negombo district;

That Mr. Evatt be directed, in conjunction with this gentleman, to make arrangements for the piling, levelling of slopes, and drainage pits required between Natande and Madampe, within the limits of the 700*l.* still unexpended upon the vote of the current year;

That a vote of 3,000*l.* be proposed in next year's estimates for the completion of the work.

July 19th, 1855. H. G. WARD.

Enclosure 3 in No. 35. **Encl. 3 in No. 35.**

MINUTE ON THE BADULLA ROAD QUESTION.

HAVING inspected personally the various lines of communication with Badulla, I feel that the time is come when some decision respecting them should be taken, and submitted to the Legislative Council.

The actual produce of Badulla, and its future capabilities, entitle the district to much consideration. The number of acres already under crop is 2,776, and 6,201 acres more are bought, and ready to be brought into coffee cultivation, if there be such a prospect of improved communication with the ports of shipment as would warrant a further outlay of capital. The soil and the climate seem peculiarly adapted to the growth of the coffee plant, the native coffee throughout that part of Ouvah being singularly luxuriant, and there is a large extent of Crown land (7,000 acres) still unsold in the magnificent forest below Happootella.

There is no doubt that there was a time when the Badulla planters suffered very severely from the difficulty of communicating with Colombo. The roads through the central province were in a bad state, and particularly that between Pusilawa and Nuwera Ellia. Coffee sent by that route cost 14*s.* per cwt., and being often six weeks upon the road was subjected to deterioration from long exposure to weather. If sent to Hambantotte (76 miles) or Batticaloa (72 miles) by Tavalam, the carriage was less, but the loss of time greater. Indeed, it frequently happened that no vessel visited those ports in which a valuable cargo could be risked until the shipping season was over on the western coast, when the charges for warehousing, and the loss of a whole season in the London market, were more than equivalent to the exorbitant bandy hire by Nuwera Ellia.

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In many respects this state of things has altered for the better. The complete restoration of the road over the Rambodde Pass, and the good state of the Pusilawa and Gampola road generally, have placed larger and cheaper means of conveyance at the disposal of the Badulla planters; and for the first time, as I am informed, since the district was opened, the whole produce of the estates on the Badulla side was safely lodged in Colombo by the first week in May. I say on the Badulla side, because the estates are divided, one portion of them being situated in the immediate vicinity of Badulla, and the others upon a spur of the mountain inclining towards Happootella, which the proprietors of these estates regard as their natural outlet.

This local distribution of the estates gives rise to some division of opinion amongst their owners, the Badulla planters being likely to derive as much advantage from the opening of the Lower Kandy road as from that by Ratnapoora, while those on the Happootella side naturally conceive that the route through Saffragam would be most conducive to their interests, supposing the public finances to be in a state to admit of the opening of an entirely new line of communication in either direction. The Badulla estates are also in closer contact with the road by Wilson's bungalow and Nuwera Ellia.

These being the points that I had to investigate upon my first visit to Badulla, I determined to examine all the lines personally. I had come to Badulla by the Nuwera Ellia road. I returned to Kandy by what is termed the Lower Badulla road, which follows for many miles the course of the Badulla Oya and the Mahawila Ganga.

In point of distance this line has decided advantages over every other. It is 56 miles to Kandy, instead of 83 (by Nuwera Ellia), and of these 56 miles 22 are already completed, 10 miles of road being open for bandies on the Badulla side, across the Teldenia Pass, and 12 more on the Kandy side, from the Maha Oya.

On the other hand, the Pass itself is a serious obstacle, the ascent and descent being the steepest incline that I ever saw attempted by wheeled carriages, and nearly impracticable for a loaded waggon. The distance from the top to the bottom is four miles. The angles of the road are most acute, and the nature of the ground is such as to render it impossible to improve them.

From the bottom of the Teldenia Pass to the Ooma Oya the distance is 16 miles, parts of which would be passable by a wheel carriage, with very little alteration; but at the fourth mile an obstacle presents itself, which, I fear, is insuperable, unless at a cost which the Government would hardly be justified in contemplating. I allude to the great masses of rock overhanging the Badulla Oya, and rendering the passage difficult even for a horse without a rider. To pass mounted, in many places, is impossible.

Not being an engineer, I cannot estimate the outlay that would be required to surmount this obstruction. But the difficulty of removing the upper stratum of rock, without destroying the ledge, which forms the only path along the precipitous bank of the river rolling some hundred feet beneath,—the immense mass to be displaced by blasting (for no other process would be of any avail),—and the distance over which this process must extend (at least a mile and a quarter), made me desirous to ascertain whether any means could be found of avoiding a difficulty which can hardly be encountered. I do not say that this is hopeless, but, from the peculiar nature of the ground, no line has yet been discovered that can be said to be practicable.

Supposing this obstacle to be overcome, we have then to deal with the Ooma Oya, which, with the Kurundu Oya and the Bilhool Oya, must be bridged over, if a bandy road, available for commercial purposes, be contemplated. This would involve a considerable outlay, the rivers being liable to sudden rises, which render the passage by ferry boat dangerous and uncertain.

Between the Ooma Oya and the Maha Oya (12 miles from Kandy), which must also be bridged, there are parts where the road is almost made naturally, but parts also that would require considerable expenditure. I should not, therefore, be justified in estimating the cost at less than 400*l.* per mile for earthwork, draining, levelling, &c. (as the Commissioner of Public Works has done, in his estimate for the road between Badulla and Happootella), with 250*l.* more per mile if metalled. This, for 34 miles out of the 56, would make 22,100*l.*, independent of bridges, which could hardly be taken at less than 3,000*l.*; and I should be disposed to add 5,000*l.* more for the removal of the rocks between Teldenia and Ooma Oya, though, having no professional data to go upon, this must be taken as mere conjecture.

Perhaps I overrate the difficulties of this part of the work; but, supposing it to cost only 3,000*l.*, the expense of opening this road will amount to 28,000*l.* If my view of the case be right, the cost will be nearer 30,000*l.*; and I should observe that I have taken a very low amount for the bridges.

I was unable to visit the country between Ratnapoora and Happootella until my return from my northern tour, in April. Happootella I saw in January. The distance to Badulla is 28 miles, of which only seven (the Commissioner of Public Works says 10, to Navella) are passable for wheel carriages. From Mr. Bertlin's estate at Oodoo-werra the road or trace branches off up a steep ascent for some miles, then crosses some marshy ground, intersected by numerous channels conveying water to the rice grounds below, and winds, at last, round the side of steep hills, which skirt the coffee estates of Mr. Davidson. The trace is good. The ground presents no serious difficulties. It would be simply necessary to widen what is now a mere bridle path, such as those which inter-

sect in every direction Dimboola and Kotmalie, and to render it passable for bandies, metalling it if necessary.

The Commissioner of Roads estimates the cost at 400*l.* a mile ; the bridges at 3,600*l.* ; and the total outlay at 14,800*l.*, with 7,000*l.* more for metalling ; making 21,800*l.* in all. I think that a part of the work might be done for less ; but I must, of course, abide by the professional opinion.

With respect to the road between Happootella and Ratnapoora, I could only obtain at Badulla the most inexact and contradictory information. By some gentlemen I was assured that of the 56 miles at least 40 were made, and would require little or no additional expenditure ; by others, that not a mile of the line could be passed in safety, that in many parts the trace was lost, and that even on horseback it would be difficult to find a passage.

In both these statements there is considerable exaggeration.

In the first place, beginning at Ratnapoora, which was my starting point on my second visit to Happootella, there is a perfect carriage road, well traced, well made, and well metalled, extending from the Kalloo Ganga to the sixth mile-stone from Ratnapoora. Unfortunately, it ends in nothing.

The Roads' department some years ago imagined that it was possible to reach Palmadulla by a direct line, traversing the paddy fields, which occupy the lower portion of the valley. The land was taken on the public behalf, and an embankment raised for the space of six miles, to the injury both of the Government and of the landowners, the Government having been a loser in its paddy rents, and the landowners having suffered both by the extent of ground occupied by the embankment and by the intersection of the water-courses,—proper measures not having been taken to carry the water under the road or to supply sufficient channels for irrigation. I cannot too strongly deprecate this neglect of private rights and of the public interest in a country where, if roads are necessary, water is not less so ; the one providing the means of conveyance, the other the produce to be conveyed to market. Many petitions upon the subject were presented to me at Palmadulla and Ratnapoora ; and it is the more difficult to answer them, because the sacrifice imposed has been without results, it being now discovered that the upkeep of a line carried through ground subject both to natural and artificial inundations would be too costly to be advisable ; in consequence of which, an entirely new line has been traced from Lillopethia, skirting the hills above the valley for four miles, in the direction of Palmadulla, and then crossing the valley at the narrowest point, but still in a manner open to objection, on account of its interference with the paddy cultivation. One mile and a half of the new trace are cut, but not made or metalled. Four miles and a half must still be completed before the road will reach Palmadulla, which is in itself a mere village, and only important as the point at which the coffee grown upon the Ballangodde estates, and upon the southern range near Rakwane (Mr. Shand's estate), may be put upon bandies and conveyed to the Kalloo Ganga (12 miles), from whence it will find its way, by the Caltura Canal, to Colombo.

Six miles, therefore, of metalled road on the Ratnapoora side (upon which a bridge, over a small Oya at the third mile from Ratnapoora, is still wanting to complete the communication for carts or carriages), and seven miles on the Badulla side, are all that is actually made of the 86 miles of road required to connect Badulla with Ratnapoora. Let us now look at the interval.

The distance from Palmadulla to Ballangodde is 14 miles ; from Ballangodde to Kalapuhana, 20 ; from Kalapuhana to Happootella, 10 ; making 44 in all.

In the first 34 miles there is not one single yard of road that would be available, in its present state, for a bandy. The trace itself, though good enough for a bridle or tavalam road, would require large alterations before it could be used for wheel carriages, the ascents and descents being numerous and steep, and the road intersected by rivers, some of which, the Bilhool Oya in particular, between Alootnuwera and Mootetoogamma, would require large and expensive bridges in order to keep open the communications during the rainy season.

The Roads' department has attempted to avoid some of these difficulties, by opening a new trace, half way between Palmadulla and Ballangodde, which branches off to the right, from a bad ford over the Madolla Ella. I am unable to state what improvement will be effected by this trace, as it is not yet passable even for horses, though ordinance labour has been employed upon it for the last three years. It re-enters what may be called the main line at Ballangodde, by traversing diagonally a long line of paddy fields ; but a native officer is, I believe, responsible for the trace ; and I doubt whether the anticipated improvement will outweigh the disadvantages of again interfering with the paddy cultivation of the district.

From Ballangodde to Alootnuwera (six miles) the road follows the Gallegamma trace, parts of which are well laid down, while others would require entire alteration, especially those leading to the various Oyas that cross the road, some of which are now perfectly inaccessible. Between Alootnuwera and Mootetoogamma (six miles) there are the same defects in the trace, and both the Bilhool Oya and a stream that precedes it would require bridging.

From Mootetoogamma to Kalapuhana (eight miles) the line seems to be as well laid out as the nature of the ground will admit of. But the natural difficulties are consi-

derable, the work to be done heavy, the streams to be crossed numerous, and their increase so rapid, from the immediate vicinity of the mountains, which rise in this part 5,000 feet, up to the Horton plains, that whatever is done must be done with great solidity.

From Kalapuhana to Happootella the distance is about nine miles, and in that space more work of a durable and useful character has been done than in any other portion of the line between Palmadulla and Badulla.

The trace is cut to the proper width for a bandy road, bridges have been constructed, and retaining walls built, wherever a water-course crosses the road, especially upon that part of the line which is properly called the Pass, and which extends for about five miles from the entrance of the forest to Happootella.

Between Kalapuhana and the forest the path is a mere bridle path, and there is a waterfall, one mile from the village (the Kooda Oya), which crosses the way on a stratum of solid rock, deeply furrowed by the water, that must be impassable during the rainy season. The road from Happootella to Badulla I have already described.

It results from this statement, which is as correct as very careful personal observation can make it, that, although there are no insuperable obstacles to the construction of a road between Badulla and Ratnapoora, yet that the undertaking must be attended with heavy expense and with considerable difficulty. It is a delusion to suppose that any part of the task is already accomplished. I was assured at Badulla that 3,000*l.* would make the road passable. 3,000*l.* judiciously laid out would, no doubt, make an excellent tavalam road; but 30,000*l.* would not make a bandy road, with proper drainage and bridges. The present trace, in many parts, after a few hours' rain, becomes almost impassable for horses; and the changes in progress between Palmadulla and Ballangodde, as well as those to which I have adverted as indispensable between that place and Kalapuhana, if the road is ever to be used as a bandy road, show that very little of the work now done would stand the test of a fresh survey, and that the road, if undertaken, must be considered as a new road, and estimated for accordingly. I wish that I could arrive at a different conclusion, but such is my conviction.

What then would be the cost of this new road, and what its advantages? These, of course, ought to bear some proportion to the charges incurred in making it.

For the cost, I must refer to the accompanying report of the Acting Commissioner of Public Works, with which I do not entirely agree, for I think the mileage underrated, and I cannot admit that there are more than seven miles of road (in lieu of ten) made on the Badulla side; the calculation should therefore commence at Oodoo-werra, not at Navalla. But admitting that the estimate is liberal enough to cover this excess, the cost of a metalled road from Badulla to Lillopethia, up to which point the work is complete on the Ratnapoora side, would be 53,600*l.*; the cost of an unmetalled road, 38,100*l.* The last alternative it would be unwise to contemplate, as the road, if made, ought to be serviceable at all seasons.

Such a road would, undoubtedly, give to the estates on the Happootella side of Badulla the readiest access to Colombo, by reducing the bandy carriage of their coffee to 56 miles, that being the distance between Happootella and Ratnapoora, where they would obtain water carriage.

It would bring into the market the splendid forest which lies between Happootella and Kalapuhane, containing near 7,000 acres.

It would open the communication between Ouvah and Saffragam, which last province, though rich and populous, has hitherto had by no means its fair share of the public expenditure.

On the other hand, the Happootella estates comprise only 590 acres, of which 300 acres are under crop, producing 250 cwts. of coffee.

The trade between Ouvah and Saffragam is limited to cocoanuts, areca nuts, and iron tools (hoes, bill-hooks, &c.), which are made in Atta-kalan Corle, and are still in considerable demand, notwithstanding English competition. These are the only articles of native produce likely to use the road, if made, and they might be sent by Tavalam, as at present. There would also be salt and cloths from Caltura; but the native coffee, which, with rice, is the principal source of wealth in Saffragam, all goes the other way, and finds access, by the river, to the Colombo market.

I cannot, under these circumstances, conscientiously recommend that 53,600*l.* should be appropriated out of the public revenue to this undertaking, at a time when districts of infinitely more importance, in point of produce, are equally unprovided with the means of communication. But I should not object to see a vote for 2,000*l.*, to be distributed over two years, applied to this line of communication, upon a well-considered plan, having due regard to the ultimate conversion of the road into a bandy road, when the revenue is able to afford it.

I have also directed an estimate to be prepared for the completion of the road between Lillopethia and Palmadulla, which is entirely useless in its present state, whereas at Palmadulla it will become available, as I have already pointed out, for the conveyance of coffee from the Ballangodde and Rakwane estates (Mr. Shand's) to Colombo, by the Kalloo Ganga.

The question of the Lower Badulla road might be considered, if the opinion of the district were not so decidedly hostile to the project, that I see little use in attempting to

open a line, at a cost of 30,000*l.*, which the parties supposed to be most interested in it say will not be of the slightest utility to them. I must admit, too, that, except as the shortest possible communication between Badulla and Kandy, the line presents few advantages. The country through which it passes is jungle. Parts of it are notoriously unhealthy, and the few scattered villages to be found at long intervals have little traffic either with each other or with Kandy. There is, therefore, nothing to support the road, except native coffee, and the coffee from the estates within six or seven miles of Badulla; and this certainly would not pay for the upkeep of the line, much less any interest upon the capital sunk in it.

Under these circumstances the course that I recommend is, to abandon both these projects altogether, and to devote to the metalling and general improvement of the road by Wilson's bungalow and Nuwera Ellia the whole of the money that can be fairly allotted, during the next three years, for the benefit of the Badulla district. I have said that that district deserves assistance from the State, on the ground of its natural capabilities, and of the capital already laid out there. I think that its development will be rapid, if it has this assurance. And though I cannot, in justice to other districts, propose that 53,600*l.*, or 28,000*l.*, should be sunk for this purpose, I am quite prepared to recommend a vote of 8,000*l.* for metalling, widening, and generally improving the 30 miles of road that are still in want of these advantages, upon a line that forms not only the link with Badulla, but the sole means of communication, for military or commercial purposes, between the central province and that large portion of the island which lies to the eastward of the Nuwera Ellia mountains. The usual estimate for metalling is 250*l.* per mile, which, for 30 miles, would make 7,500*l.* I allow 500*l.* for other improvements. This plan appears to me to combine public considerations with local advantages. The work is, in a great measure, done already. The road is open; it must be maintained. A considerable traffic passes over it. By far the largest portion of the Badulla coffee has been sent by this route this year to Colombo for shipment. If the railway to Kandy be made, the Badulla planters will have the benefit of it, precisely to the same extent as the planters of Pussilawa or Dimboola, with this difference, that they have, for their own purposes, and of their own free will, located themselves at a somewhat greater distance from Kandy than those engaged in similar pursuits had thought advisable. It is impossible for the Government to place all upon precisely the same level in this respect. Something must be left to individual judgment; and all that the State can be fairly expected to do is, to give to each the best means of communication that the state of the revenue, and the extent to which the particular district contributes to it, will warrant. In my judgment, all that the Badulla district can fairly claim, at present, will be done, if the actual means of communication be put into a state of thorough repair, and kept so. Their access to Colombo by Batticaloa or Hambantotte will, I hope, be greatly facilitated by the establishment of a screw steamer, touching at those ports once a month, and able to carry a considerable amount of cargo. The communication by Tavalam, between Happootella and Palmadulla, up to which place a carriage road will be completed, if my present proposal be adopted, will be of advantage to the Happootella estate; and as the produce of the district increases, as more capital is invested, more land brought into cultivation, and a larger nucleus of English population and interests formed, there will be more to induce the Legislative Council to give its assent to any measures that experience may show to be necessary for its farther development.

I cannot conclude this minute without adverting to the state of the road between Colombo and Ratnapoora, and recommending that a vote should be taken for completing the two miles that still remain unfinished, and for throwing a bridge over the two substantial piers that stand in readiness to receive it, although, as is too much the custom in Ceylon, when the principal expense has been incurred, the bridge itself is forgotten.

The temporary road made by ordinance and prison labour to connect the main road with the town is under water for some weeks in the year; and it is hardly creditable to the Government or the Legislature to bring to "so lame and impotent a conclusion" a work upon which so large an amount of public money has been expended.

H. G. WARD.

SIR, Colombo, March 28, 1856.

BY the desire of Your Excellency, I beg to enclose a rough memorandum of the probable cost of opening, to a carriage road, that portion of the Badulla and Ratnapoora line which requires to be so opened. I may explain that on the Badulla side 10 miles are already a sufficient width for wheel traffic, and on the Ratnapoora 6 miles. That it would be desirable to open this road there can be no doubt, but it is a matter of great consideration whether the advantage to be gained will be equivalent to the cost of the undertaking. It would appear to me, that as far as Ouvah is concerned, that if a good tavalam road was made, and the bridges built, no more ought to be expected; but for Saffragam, in my humble opinion, a carriage road should be made, at all events as far as Balangodde, as it runs through a rich and populous district, and for which, as yet (as far as roads are concerned), very little has been done. Your Excellency will be able to judge

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better of this from personal observation, as I have been informed that you contemplate a visit to the Saffragam district in the course of next month.

I beg to remain,

To His Excellency the Governor. Your obedient Servant,

H. A. EVATT.

The probable cost, in the rough, of opening for a Cart Road that portion of Ratnapoora Road which lies between Navalla and Lillopethia,—a distance of 62 miles.

In the Ouvah District.

From the junction of Hambantotte Road at Navalla to Happootella	15 miles	
Boundary of district - - - - - - -	13 „	
	28 miles	
Earth work, draining, blasting, levelling, per mile - -		£400
		11,200
Bridges - - - - - - - - -		3,600
		£14,800
If to be metalled, 250*l.* per mile must be added - - -		7,000
		£21,000

In the Saffragam District.

From boundary of district at Goracundera Ella to Balangodde -	13 miles	
From Balangodde to Lillopethia - - - - - -	21 „	
	34 miles	
Earth work, draining and blasting, levelling, &c., per mile - -		£450
		15,300
Bridges, probable - - - - - - -		8,000
		£23,300
It to be metalled, 250*l.* per mile - - - -		8,500
		£31,800

Abstract.

In the Ouvah district - - - - -	£21,800
In the Saffragam district - - - - - -	31,800
	£53,600
Deduct cost of metalling the whole distance - - -	15,500
	£38,100

Encl. 4 in No. 35.

Enclosure 4 in No. 35.

MINUTE ON THE NORTHERN PROVINCE.

HAVING devoted a considerable portion of my late tour to an examination of the state of the northern province, I regard it as a public duty to place upon record the expression of my entire satisfaction with the system pursued by the Government agent, Mr. Dyke, in all that relates to the native population, and of my extreme gratification at the results.

It would be difficult to suggest a single improvement in the mode of conducting business in the departments of the Local Government.

The work of the cutcherry is so well classed and subdivided, that there is not a point upon which the minutest details may not be procured upon the shortest notice; and the department of Public Works appears to me to be equally well conducted, for nothing can exceed the perfection of the roads, the good repair of the public buildings in and near Jaffna, the solidity of the bridges, and the general cleanliness of the town.

Without in any way detracting from the merits of Mr. Byrne, the officer in charge of this department, I think that the praise of having accomplished, with very small means, greater results than have been achieved in any other part of Ceylon, in the way of

facilitating the communications between the most important points of the peninsula, and of opening every available market to its produce, is due principally to Mr. Dyke's steady perseverance in a well-considered plan, and to the care with which the proceedings of the road department and of the Provincial Committee have been directed to the same ends. A large portion of the labour and funds available under the road ordinance goes to the repair of the main lines of road. Mr. Byrne acts for the committee as well as for the department of Public Works. The same spirit pervades the two; they have common objects, and, so far as the law will allow of it, common means; and the fruits of this united action go far to justify an opinion expressed by Sir William Molesworth in one of the last despatches that I received from him, namely, that without bringing the application of the local and the general funds into perfect harmony with each other, the maintenance of the roads in Ceylon would never be satisfactory to the Government or to the public. The difficulty is, that to produce this harmony there must be at the head of the Local Government a man perfectly and personally acquainted with every matter connected with his province, able to judge of the relative importance of its wants, and firm enough to carry out with impartiality what he believes to be most conducive to its good. This in England would be left to local trusts, or to the municipalities of large towns. Here it devolves upon the Government agent, under the control of the general Government; but where the Government agent does his duty, as Mr. Dyke has done his for 22 years, his recommendations cannot be too favourably received by the general Government and the Legislative Council in considering the estimates for the year. They form parts of a whole, and if the parts be materially altered the whole may be endangered.

It was most gratifying to me to find proofs amongst all classes of the warm and grateful feelings with which Mr. Dyke's services are acknowledged by the whole Tamil population.

I do not mean that there were no complaints: petitions abound during a Governor's progress; but, upon the most careful examination of their allegations, I can hardly discover a single real grievance. Most of the complaints that reached me were of a very vague character, and bore principally upon evils which no Government can pretend to remove.

The high price of paddy in an importing country, when prices are high in the country from which its supplies are drawn; the high rate of interest on money; the high price of land; the propriety of re-establishing all the village headmen whom the wise policy of the Government has successively reduced; the want of a police (a question now decided); the imperfect drainage of Jaffna; the absence of a large system of education at the public expense to fill the gap created by the cessation of the missionary schools; the abolition of the rice duty, and of the monopolies of salt and arrack; the hardships to which Moorish females are exposed by being summoned as witnesses before the courts, and subjected to the quarantine regulations for the prevention of small-pox; the operation of the Ordinance, No. 7. of 1853, by which imprisonment for debts under 10*l.* in amount was abolished; and the want of good gravelled roads to Colombo and Trincomalie;—these are the points that were principally urged upon me during my stay, and they cannot be said to constitute a heavy bill of indictment against either the general or the local Government.

Such of these as merit consideration, and admit of legal remedy, shall have the one, and may expect the other from the kindly consideration of the Legislative Council. I see no reason, for example, why the law of Ceylon should not be assimilated to that of India as regards the mode of receiving the depositions of female Mahommedans, since it is notorious that the power of summoning them as witnesses is abused, in the hope that they will submit to an unjust claim rather than appear in court to resist it. In like manner, it is well worthy of consideration whether the place of the missionary educational establishments should be supplied by some Government establishment of a similar nature, or whether the money voted for the Wesleyan and other missions, which still maintain schools, will suffice.

Without anticipating the opinions of the Council upon this point, I beg to record my own, that whatever system be adopted it should not be gratuitous, and that the amount required from each scholar should be sufficient to put some check upon that too easy acquisition of the rudiments of knowledge which fills every Government office with noisy applicants for place, and strips the fields of that labour which is the real source of wealth in a country four-fifths of which are still uncultivated. The results of the experience of the last 30 years have, in the opinion of the most competent judges, been anything but favourable to too extensive a scheme of education. It has not tended to disseminate Christianity or to check vice; while it has given an unhappy celebrity to the Tamil-English juries, composed of men whom a smattering of English raises above the employments to which they were born, without fitting them for any other, and has led to a system of forgeries and personations, which are more prevalent in the northern province than in any other.

But if upon one point I speak unfavourably, let me do the Tamils justice upon many others. Their industry, the beauty of their cultivation, the marvellous account to which they turn a soil, light but fertile, wherever water can be procured; the rapid progress of their tobacco crops, the exports of which have risen in value from 2,600*l.* in 1836, when

the trade was crushed by the Government monopoly, and the high customs duty that followed, to 55,000*l.* in 1854, with every probability of a steady increase, especially if the restrictive system were relaxed in Travancore; the innumerable wells sunk throughout the peninsula; the active and enterprising spirit shown in the ports of Point Pedro and Valvetytorre, through which, in consequence of the difficult navigation between Jaffna and Kayts, nearly the whole of the trade with the coast of India is conducted; the steady decrease of crime; and the grateful sense expressed by all classes of the benefits which they enjoy under British rule, so forcibly brought home to them by the Local Government under the long and able administration of Mr. Dyke, were to me sources of pride as an Englishman, and of the sincerest gratification as the Queen's representative.

I have, under these circumstances, had no hesitation in shaping my communications with those who addressed me (except upon one point, to which I shall advert presently), in terms that appeared to me the best calculated to strengthen the influence of the Government agent, and to impress all parties with the belief that, in carrying out his plans, he may rely upon my cordial co-operation.

I have held out no false hopes. I have repudiated all impracticabilities. I have said plainly that Government cannot feed everybody, or employ everybody, or drain everybody's field, or repair everybody's tank, where there is no public or general interest to be promoted by its intervention.

But I have said also that it can, and ought to, remove all obstacles that stand in the way of individual efforts; to give the widest scope to the operations of trade; and to distribute impartially the funds at its command, after providing for the exigencies of the State in the works most conducive to the general interest.

Upon these points I hope that I have seen and learnt much during the last six weeks that will render my visit, in any future consideration of its affairs, not altogether useless to the northern province.

With regard to the staple produce of the peninsula, tobacco, the subject is one that cannot receive too much attention. The soil and climate are peculiarly favourable to the growth of this plant, and its cultivation is superior to anything that I have seen in the Mediterranean. Of its quality there can be no better proof than the fact that the Government of Travancore, in order to command a sale of the tobacco prepared in the Government factories, is forced to mix a certain amount of Jaffna tobacco with that which it procures at lower prices and of an inferior description from various parts of India. If the monopoly were done away with a much greater bulk of Jaffna tobacco would be used. The cultivation of rice, which cannot pay at the present price of land near Jaffna (from 30*l.* to 50*l.* an acre) would be given up, and a large system of exchange adopted, the results of which would be doubly advantageous, since they would break down a second monopoly, which the Colombo Chamber of Commerce has complained of as materially affecting the trade of Ceylon, it being the practice of the Government of Travancore to receive payment in peppers and cardamoms from the chiefs to whom the tobacco from the Government factory is consigned, and to limit the trade in those articles to its own agents. The attention of the Governor General of India has already been called to this system, and his intervention promised.

The one point upon which I have differed from Mr. Dyke is the position of his own countrymen in the northern province, which I do not think satisfactory; and I have not disguised my opinion that capitalists who have laid out 10,000*l.* in Crown land, and have expended nearly 200,000*l.* in the endeavour to bring that land into cultivation, have a right to expect that much consideration should be shown for their interests; that all reasonable facilities should be given to them in the way of postal and other communications; that they should have a seat and a voice, as the planters of the central province have, in the Provincial Committee, and some part in the administration of justice; in short, that they should be treated as a body of men in whose fate the Government takes a deep interest, and in whose success it sees an additional element of prosperity.

I have no wish to reopen the causes that have disturbed in the northern province this natural state of feeling. The differences that have arisen have been principally of a public character, and the faults appear to me to have been pretty equally divided. The planters have always assumed, and no doubt honestly believed, that the completion of the road from Jaffna to Elephants Pass was the condition upon which their lands were bought; and they have consequently regarded the slow progress of that road as a breach of faith, which they laid to the charge of the Government agent, while the Government agent, never having been officially informed of the existence of such an engagement, and having no funds for its fulfilment except those voted specially from time to time by the Legislature, has just as naturally shrunk from a task the difficulties of which are considerable, on account of the distance from which the materials have to be conveyed, and which must have absorbed a large proportion of his available resources in money and labour.

Some of the differences to which this state of feeling gave rise have been happily ended by the completion of the metalled road to the 24th milestone, which brings it into the vicinity of the principal estates, and enables the owners of most of them to receive their letters by the morning mail coach from Jaffna, without having more than four miles to send for them. The value of this change can only be appreciated by those who have waded through the ocean of deep sand, beginning from the point at which you leave

the finished road, and extending to Pass Beshuter on the one side and to the Elephants Pass on the other. The Government is, I think, bound to extend to all the same advantages, by continuing the metalled road to the 28th milestone as soon as practicable. It will then remain to be considered by what precise route it should be carried on to Elephants Pass, where it will communicate with the great northern road, the state of which has been to me a source of equal surprise and gratification, for I had no idea that during nine months of the year a wheel carriage might pass from Colombo to Jaffna without any other obstacles than those which occur between Matelle and the point a little beyond Dambool, at which the road to Anuradhapoora enters the Newerakalavia district.

Throughout the northern province, or at all events from Jaffna to Kekeiawe, a distance of 150 miles, the road is perfectly safe, and two-thirds of it are as good as any traveller need desire.

This is the more creditable to the local authorities, as the annual repairs after the rains are entirely conducted by ordinance labour.

I shall now proceed to state succinctly various items of expenditure which I found it necessary to provide for by a supplementary vote during my stay in the northern province, the works being urgently required, although in most cases the ultimate provision to be made for them is left for the decision of the Legislative Council.

Planting Interest.

The cocoanut estates of the northern province are confined to the Patchelopalli district, which extends from Kodigamo to Pass Beshuter. The principal estates lie between the 17th and 28th milestones right and left of the road to Jaffna. There are only two estates, that of Mr. Dunlop and a new clearing belonging to Messrs. Wilson and Ritchie, beyond the 28th mile; but the whole of the estates depend upon the main line of road for their supplies and the conveyance of their produce to the port of shipment, which is either Point Pedro or Jaffna. It is, therefore, of the greatest importance to them that this road should be completed, and it was under the belief that it would be so, though I am not aware of the existence of any positive engagement to that effect, that, as I have already stated, 10,000 acres of Crown land were bought, and 200,000*l.* expended in bringing it to its present high state of cultivation.

Having inspected personally six of the principal estates, and other gentlemen of my party having visited several of the remainder, I am enabled to state that they are all in a most satisfactory condition, well fenced, well cultivated, and rapidly approaching the period when a very large amount of copperah, or oil (should steam machinery be established at a convenient point), may be prepared for exportation.

It is, therefore, doubly desirable that facilities should be given for conducting a business which promises to add largely to the commercial importance of Ceylon, and the completion of the metalled road up to the 28th milestone appears to me to be the first and most essential step to be taken. The difficulties to be overcome in carrying on this road are very considerable, for the whole country is sand, and no stone is to be found within many miles of the point at which the present road terminates. It is, however, ascertained that a mixture of shell and gravel may be procured in sufficient quantities from a lagoon to the north of the intended line of road, provided a raised causeway be made across a swamp which renders the approach to it difficult. This must be done in the dry season (between March and September) if the gravel from the lagoon is to be made available next year; and I have, consequently, authorized an expenditure of 200*l.*, to be charged to the supplementary vote for the present year, for the purpose of constructing this causeway, in the full belief that the Legislative Council will not refuse a vote of 1,500*l.*, which it is my intention to propose in the estimates for 1857, for the purpose of extending the metalled road from the 24th to the 28th milestone, reserving the question of its completion to Elephants Pass for further consideration.

The planters having complained to me by deputation of the difficulties that attend the administration of justice in the Patchelopalli district, the nearest resident magistrate being at Chavagacherry, I have suggested the remedy which has been adopted with so much success at Navellapitia and Pusilawa, viz., that the magistrate of Chavagacherry should hold a petty sessions once a fortnight in the vicinity of the estates for the hearing of small cases. Mr. Dyke has offered to transfer for this purpose to the 22nd or 24th milestone a cutcherry bungalow now at Pelai bazaar, which will answer the purpose of a court until a building to be used both as court and rest house can be erected; and the cost of this transfer, which will not exceed 30*l.*, must be included in the supplementary estimate. The sole additional expense will be the magistrate's travelling expenses and a small increase of his establishment.

I shall take an early opportunity of placing two of the leading planters in the commission of the peace; and the Government agent having proposed that Mr. Gordon should be appointed a member of the Provincial Committee, I have had much pleasure in sanctioning this arrangement, which I trust will be found to work satisfactorily.

The cocoanut district is, no doubt, entitled to a share of the labour and funds raised under the Road Ordinance, corresponding with its own contributions; and any differences that may arise as to the amount of this share, or the proper mode of applying it, will be more easily settled when the planters have a representative upon the committee.

Point Pedro.

The importance of this small port is daily increasing, in consequence of the delay and losses caused by the transhipment at Kaits of cargoes intended for Jaffna. The customs receipts already exceed 4,000*l.* The accommodation provided is most inadequate, and at certain seasons the port is unapproachable, from the want of anchorage, even for the smallest vessels engaged in the coasting trade.

Nature has, however, done something towards this, by placing a coral reef parallel with the beach, with a gap or entrance through which small vessels now pass, provided they draw only four feet water. It was represented to me* that to deepen this entrance to eight feet, and to give the same depth, uniformly, to the cove, within the reef, would require nothing but a small grant of money and manual labour, the coral reef being easily worked, and the process requiring no scientific superintendence, while the advantages to the trade of the place would be obvious, as most of the vessels frequenting the port would then have a place of refuge in bad weather.

Having inspected the site with Mr. Dyke, and seen the channel buoyed out by men, stationed on each side of it, I am satisfied that the plan is easy of execution ; and, as the work must be done before the beginning of the north-east monsoon, I have authorized an expenditure of 200*l.*, to be charged to the supplementary vote, with which, in my opinion, the largest portion of the excavation ought to be completed. A regular estimate will be prepared by Mr. Byrne, and submitted to the Legislative Council.

Valvetty-torre.

This port is the neighbour and rival of Point Pedro, to which all its vessels are now forced to resort, Valvetty-torre not being a port of entry. The accompanying petition† shows the feelings of the inhabitants upon the subject, and the grounds upon which they claim equality, if not a preference. The number of vessels owned by them is large ; and as the only check upon that monopolizing spirit, of which so many complaints reached me, consists in multiplying the channels through which supplies of all kinds reach the people, I am disposed to think that the question of making Valvetty-torre a port of entry merits consideration. On the other hand, it is only separated from Point Pedro by five miles of excellent road. There is danger, and there is expense, in every increase of establishment. The total amount of trade at the two ports is not large ; and the only hope that I held out was, that I would bring the matter before the Executive Council.

Daily Post to Point Pedro.

A daily post to Point Pedro being much wanted, I have authorized its establishment, at an expense not exceeding 36*l.*, upon the assurance of the Government agent that the proceeds will cover a considerable portion of the cost.

Jaffna Hospital.

I have also been earnestly solicited to take into consideration the state of this most useful and interesting establishment, the only one of the kind available for 200,000 people. The papers which accompany this minute‡ show that the Government has only contributed 400*l.* (towards the purchase of land for the site, there being no Crown land in Jaffna) out of 1,637*l.* already expended. The results produced by the institution are most gratifying ; and though the number of in-door patients is limited by the want of a female ward, and of sufficient space even for the male applicants, the confidence inspired by the system of management, and the success that has attended the medical operations, have gone far to wean the Tamil population from its prejudices in favour of a most ignorant and mischievous race of native practitioners, and to induce them to look with confidence to European science.

The one thing wanting to secure these advantages is the establishment of a female ward, for which the land is already purchased ; and feeling confident that the work is one to which the Government will gladly lend its aid, I have authorized an expenditure of 400*l.* upon the buildings required for the female ward, leaving the Council to consider the propriety of raising the Government contribution, ultimately, to a par with that of the public, by a further grant of 400*l.*, which will still be wanted, in order to increase the accommodation in the male hospital.

Rest-houses.

The state of the rest-houses in the northern province is deplorable. Year after year estimates have been sent in for their repair upon the three principal lines of road, and year after year the state of the finances has rendered it necessary to defer compliance with this most just and necessary requisition.

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* See Appendix A., page 301. † See Appendix B., page 301.
‡ See Appendix C., page 302.

The consequence is that the public will very shortly be deprived altogether of an accommodation which, to the majority of travellers, is indispensable. Travelling, as I have done, with tents, I can honestly state my opinion that the worst rest-house is better than the best tent, either in very hot or in very rainy weather. But to those who travel without tents, the worst rest-house implies shelter, comfort, and health, or exposure to weather, and fever. I look upon it, therefore, as a matter of duty on the part of the Government to maintain these buildings, without the aid of which it will be impossible for any public servant to do his duty properly; and I have, consequently, sanctioned an expenditure of 105*l.* over and above the sums provided in the estimates for the year, for the repair of the rest-houses at Pass Beshuter, Sandicolom, and Mullativo, where the gale of December last has done much damage.

I have also granted 25*l.* for the rebuilding the school at Mullativo, which was blown down in the gale. It was attended by 60 boys; and most of the materials may be made use of, if the work be undertaken immediately. 10*l.* more are required for the assistant agent's house; and it is desirable that whatever is done at this place should be done simultaneously, as the workmen employed, and the materials, must all be sent from Jaffna.

The Government agent has pressed upon me a grant of 80*l.* for completing a causeway across the swamp, by which the station at Mullativo is approached, and without which it is inaccessible in rainy weather. The Provincial Committee will give an equal amount, and the work may then be completed within the year. It must stand over for two years, if left until sufficient local funds have accumulated.

Bridge across Salt River.

A similar vote in aid, for a bridge intended to cross the Salt river between Kopay and Kalthadaly, is asked. The amount will be 800*l.* The road has been completed on each side of the bridge by the Provincial Committee, but it has no funds for the bridge, which will open a most important line of communication. I have therefore taken the responsibility of granting 400*l.*, leaving the remaining 400*l.* to be provided for in the estimates for 1857, should the Legislative Council concur in the view which I have taken of this matter.

Elephants' Pass.

The precarious nature of this ford, which is $1\frac{1}{4}$ mile across, and varies in depth according to the weather, renders it desirable that a toll should be imposed, and a means of crossing by boat provided for those who choose to avail themselves of it. Mr. Dyke suggests that a large canoe should be tried for a year as a ferry-boat. The supplementary vote would not exceed 20*l.*, which I have sanctioned. If the boat should not, ultimately, cover its own expenses, it must be discontinued.

Gaol at Manaar.

The gaol at Manaar is in a state which renders it totally unfit for the custody of prisoners. A plan for building a new gaol, which, even then, was thought necessary, was sanctioned in 1841 by Mr. Stewart Mackenzie. The estimate was 298*l.* The estimate for the repair of the present gaol, leaving it a bad and most inconvenient building, is 120*l.* One or the other must be done immediately; and thinking it most undesirable to spend 120*l.* in repairing a bad gaol, when a new and commodious one may be built for 300*l.*, I have authorized an expenditure of 150*l.* in collecting materials for the new work, should the Legislative Council think fit to include the remaining 150*l.* in next year's estimates.

Aripo Pearl Fishery.

The Government agent states that the accommodation for civilians (clerks, &c.) during the fishing season is most inadequate, and that the knowledge of this, and the fear of the inconvenience that results from it, increase the difficulty of inducing proper men to volunteer for the service. Mr. Dyke's proposal last year was, to erect a certain number of buildings with brick floors, coral pillars, and a moveable Palmyra roof, which might have been taken to pieces at the close of the season; but the expense was considered too large, and it would now be too late to begin building for the fishery of 1857.

As the prospects of this fishery are very promising, according to a report that I saw just before leaving Anaradhapoora, and as there seems to be a great probability that another fishery may be reckoned upon in 1859, I think that the Government will do wisely to reconsider Mr. Dyke's proposal, and to make such arrangements for 1859 as will, at the smallest cost, ensure the health and decent comforts of its employés.

Anaradhapoora.

The state of the public buildings at this station is really disgraceful. The cutcherry consists of a miserable court-house, deficient in height, space, and accommodation, and two small rooms attached to it, in which a man, standing up, can touch the roof with his

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hand. The house occupied by the assistant agent is the rest-house; to which Mr. Flanderka, at his own expense, has added two sheds, by way of stores and godowns. There is, consequently, no rest-house at all. And with these appliances and means it is expected that the business of the Government is to be carried on, and justice administered to 60,000 people, in a climate remarkable for heat and fever, which for three months in the year render the place uninhabitable.

The Government appears to have been conscious of these deficiencies, and desirous to remedy them, for in 1851 it sanctioned the building of a house for the assistant agent, which was begun by Mr. Brodie; and a vote for a new court-house, and for the enlargement of the cutcherry, was taken in the estimates for the current year. Unfortunately, the building of the assistant agent's house was interrupted by some misunderstanding with the Department of Public Works, after the foundations were laid, and the walls raised four feet from the ground; and at the present moment the Local Government is authorized to proceed with the cutcherry, but not with the court; whereas the repair of the cutcherry cannot be commenced until the new court is completed. The estimates, too, for both, are said to be inadequate, and should be raised from 60*l.* and 75*l.* to 100*l.* each, or the work can never be done satisfactorily.

Under these circumstances, I have authorized an outlay of 200*l.* in bricks and Palmyra wood (to be fitted in Jaffna) for the walls and roof of the assistant agent's house, the plan of which appears to me to be simple and convenient; and I have directed an estimate to be prepared of the total expense of completing it next year, to be laid before the Legislative Council. I have also desired Mr. Flanderka to proceed at once with the new court-house, at a cost not exceeding 100*l.*, leaving the repairs of the cutcherry to be re-voted in next year's estimates.

Mr. Flanderka is perfectly competent to carry out a plan prepared by Mr. Byrne with the aid of native workmen; and Mr. Byrne, having no European assistant until the return of Mr. Quinton, cannot personally attend to the execution of distant works in so extensive a district without neglecting more important duties.

When the court-house, the government agent's house, and the cutcherry, are completed, the present assistant agent's house being reconverted into a rest-house, I can foresee no occasion for further expenditure at Anaradhapoora for some years, unless a bridge, for which a large quantity of timber has been already cut, should be carried across the river. The cost of this I have at present no means of estimating.

The insalubrity of the station is ascribed, in a great measure, to want of good water, that drawn from the tank becoming fetid at the close of the dry season.

It is supposed that well-water might be found throughout the plain, at a depth of forty feet; but upon this point I have no data that would justify me in expressing an opinion.

General Remarks.

Having thus dealt with the questions involving actual expenditure, I shall proceed to call the attention of the Council to some other matters, which I think deserving of its consideration.

Police at Jaffna.

A very strong feeling was evinced in many of the petitions presented to me respecting the want of adequate protection at Jaffna; and though crimes of violence* have certainly diminished of late to an extent highly creditable to the province, still the establishment of a police, in a town so thickly populated, appears to be just and necessary.

The question is at this moment before the Executive Council; and though there may be differences of opinion as to the area to be included ultimately in the police limits, I think that the experiment should be tried at first upon the scale proposed by the government agent. I have doubts, I confess, as to the prudence of not including what is called the native town in the police limits; but the peculiarities of Jaffna are such, and it is so difficult to fix the line where the town merges into a purely agricultural population, that I cannot pretend to set a mere impression on my part against Mr. Dyke's experience; and I am, consequently, prepared to adopt the scheme recommended by him in the proclamation, which I hope will be agreed to at the next meeting of the Council.

Rice Grounds of the Karatchy District.

This district, which is in fact the granary of the peninsula, contains 8,500 acres of paddy-land, 7,200 of which are irrigated by the Vilandi river. It is the nearest point at which the surplus population of Jaffna can be brought into contact with a sufficiency of land and water, to ensure a fair return for its labour. The ground is cultivated by families from the neighbourhood of Chavagacherry and Jaffna, and may be regarded

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* See Appendix D., page 304.

as private property (though the title is in the Crown), held on the condition of cultivation. The owners or tenants visit the Karatchy twice a year, at sowing and crop-time, and are subjected to certain regulations as regards watching, fencing, and other common duties, which appear to work admirably, for nothing could be finer than the appearance of the crops, which I had the advantage of seeing during the harvest, or more orderly than the conduct of the people.

The sole limit to this system appears to be the possibility of extending the supply of water, and rendering it less dependent upon the seasons. If the supply could be made certain, the present revenue (500*l.* a year) might be doubled, for all would contribute, according to their means, to secure so great a blessing.

If the supply were increased, 5,000 acres more might be brought into cultivation, with an increase of 1,100*l.* a year in the revenue after the first four years, during which the ground would be cleared and assuedemised by the new tenants. I have gone carefully into these calculations, and see no reason to question their accuracy; nor do I doubt that there would be abundant competition for the land, if the supply of water could be secured.

Under these circumstances, Mr. Dyke has called my attention to the plan of building store-tanks, to retain the surplus waters during the rainy season, which has been so successfully pursued in India by Colonel Cotton. The cost of a tank, with an earthen bund of two miles, faced with stone, in a flat country, presenting few natural facilities for its construction, is stated by Colonel Cotton to be 12,000*l.*

One such tank would suffice for 5,000 acres. The distance from the land to be irrigated is immaterial, provided proper levels for the conveyance of the water can be obtained; and the cost of a stone duct or channel, five miles in length, is included in the 12,000*l.*

In a country so full of inequalities as that through which the Vilandi river flows, it is probable that natural facilities might be found that would materially diminish the cost of constructing a tank of this description. The question cannot be decided without an accurate survey by an officer in whose science and judgment the Government can place confidence. I have simply adverted to it as a matter well worthy of consideration; but I have promised Mr. Dyke that if any circumstance were to require the presence of the surveyor-general in the north, the Government would request him to undertake this duty; and I have great hopes that he might do so with the prospect of a satisfactory result.

Survey Department.

The question of surveys has met me everywhere, and always as a source of difficulty, and a bar to improvement in every arrangement connected with land.

Nothing can be more natural than that scientific men should wish to secure all possible accuracy in the discharge of a most important duty. But it will take 100 years with our present means, or any such enlargement of them as can reasonably be contemplated, to complete a survey of Ceylon upon a trigonometrical basis; and in the meantime, what is to become of the interests of the present generation? Are there to be no land sales? No transfers? No title deeds? No possibility of acquiring a legal right to a small holding, which is just as essential to native industry as the survey of the larger blocks is to the investment of planting capital? I have reason to believe that the quantity of land that might now be sold in five acre or ten acre pieces, at a remunerating price, is very considerable; and I see no reason to doubt that the facility of acquiring property in this way would have just as beneficial an effect upon the habits and character of the Singhalese as the practice of squatting has the reverse.

I regard it, therefore, as indispensable that some means should be found of putting up for sale small allotments of land, in every district where the government agents report that there is a demand for such allotments, and that there would be competition for them if brought into the market.

The very large amount received for native coffee, and not invested in any known or ostensible way, explains the increasing desire for land. The mode of meeting it must be left to the surveyor-general. But I am happy to say, that upon communication with him I find that he sees nothing impracticable in the idea of combining a ruder kind of survey sufficiently accurate to enable the Government to sell (the land brought into the market being distinguished by well defined boundaries specified in the deed of sale, and which it would be the duty of the purchaser to keep up), with that more perfect survey which must always be borne in view as the object at which the department must aim.

Captain Gosset thinks that there would be no difficulty in including these blocks of small holdings in the general survey when made up, the Government reserving to itself the right of claiming payment in money for any excess of land included in the allotment, and of indemnifying the purchaser (also in money, not in land,) for any deficiency in the amount supposed to have been purchased.

The differences on either side will probably be very small when brought to actual measurement, while by putting a money value upon them there will be no disputes between the owners of neighbouring allotments, and the whole may be brought into the general survey without disputes or inconvenience.

I think this is an admirable idea, and I am much indebted to Captain Gosset for the suggestion. Nothing will facilitate so much the sale of land, with a frontage to minor roads (which is now generally occupied by squatters), or check so effectually the occupation of chenas, which it is difficult to resist when land is not to be obtained on reasonable terms in good situations.

Payment of Vidahns.—Salaries of Magistrates at Out-stations.—Postal Communication.

There are other points to which I am anxious to call attention; the payment of the vidahns, the very inadequate provision made for magistrates doing duty at some of the smaller stations upon acting appointments, and the postal communications between Colombo and Jaffna.

With regard to the first*, I concur entirely in Mr. Dyke's opinion, that the duties of these officers are of a nature that no one can expect to see performed without remuneration, and that if not paid by the Government they will abuse their powers in order to extort pay from the people.

In a report dated 9th August 1844, Mr. Dyke proposed to impose a small house tax in each district, for the payment of the vidahn, and he feels confident that the arrangement would give general satisfaction, the Tamils, as a people, being perfectly cognizant of their rights, and certain to resist exactions on the part of the Vidahns, if attempted, when once a Government payment is established. Mr. Dyke's report, printed with the Finance Report of 1849, shows that the amount of the tax would be very trifling.

With regard to magistrates holding acting appointments in small stations (Chavagacherry, Calpentyn, Mullativo, &c.), the pay of which is only 300*l.*, and drawing consequently 150*l.* a year for the performance of very important duties, their position is deplorable in every respect, and most discreditable to the Government.

How can a man, reduced to accept such an appointment, and bringing to it the habits and feelings of a gentleman, maintain his position, or command the respect of the natives?

He can hardly keep a servant out of his pay, still less a horse. He must live upon the barest necessaries; and the knowledge and sight of these habitual privations destroy his influence in the district over which he presides, if they do not, at last, impair the belief in his integrity.

I think it bad economy as well as bad policy to expose gentlemen by education and birth to this ordeal; and I feel confident that the Secretary of State, when the matter is brought before him, would sanction a minimum of 300*l.* for all cases of this description if the Legislative Council were to concur in the view which I take of its propriety.

Such an arrangement will cost the public little, while it confers a great boon upon the individual.

It simply extends the principle which Sir John Pakington has laid down in the case of writers; and certainly in dealing with two classes of public servants, it is at least as necessary to uphold the dignity of a judge as that of a young man recently arrived in the colony, and qualifying himself for his future career.

I come lastly to the state of the postal communications with the northern province; and I cannot too strongly express my conviction, in which the government agent concurs, that it would be expedient to confine them entirely to the central road, and to give up the coast line altogether.

The difficulties of keeping up a line of tappals between Putlam and Manaar are immense. During the rainy season the rivers on the coast are impassable. During the dry season, the men suffer severely from heat and drought. The commercial correspondence between the two places, as between Manaar and Jaffna, is so inconsiderable as to be wholly unworthy of consideration, and letters would be conveyed with infinitely greater ease and regularity, though something might be lost in point of time, if the whole correspondence of the northern province were sent *viâ* Dambool, with a branch from Madawatche to Manaar, instead of the present line from Anaradhapoora, which passes through a desert, without a village or an inhabitant, for 60 miles.

The Anaradhapoora line would thus be done away with; the coast line would be done away with, north of Putlam; and the saving so made might be employed in improving the communications upon the central road, which is already the line followed by the cooly immigration, and is provided with cooly sheds and a cooly police, all of which might be made available for the postal service, if this route were adopted.

Should the Council concur in my views upon this point, Mr. Dyke might be called upon to prepare a plan for carrying them out early next year, when the present contracts have expired; and if this decision were accompanied by an improvement in the Trincomalie road, between Matelle, Nalande, and Dambool, a matter which I think well worthy of the attention of the Legislative Council when considering the estimates for 1857, I am satisfied that a very great change for the better in the internal communication of the island might be effected at a comparatively small expense.

Pavilion, Kandy, April 5th, 1856. H. G. WARD.

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* See Appendix E., page 304.

APPENDIX.

A.

To his Excellency Sir HENRY GEORGE WARD, Knight Grand Cross of the most distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George, Governor and Commander-in-Chief in and over the Island of Ceylon, with the dependencies thereof,

The humble petition of the undersigned shipowners and merchants of Point Pedro.

May it please your Excellency,

Your Excellency's petitioners, with due respect, beg leave to state that trade between this port and the ports on the continent of India is carried on only during eight months in the year. The revenue collected during that period amounts to upwards of 4,000*l.*, and the expenditure attending the customs establishment of this port does not exceed above 230*l.* annually; and although such an amount of revenue is collected at this port, the petitioners suffer a great deal in consequence of the inconvenience of the creek, situated on the eastern side of the custom house, where their vessels are taken for shelter. The place is now about four feet in depth, which, if deepened about four feet more, up to the place where vessels are usually sheltered, and the passage to it be also widened, it would with facility enable the petitioners in stormy weather to take in their vessels with cargo on board, and secure them from being endangered.

The petitioners further beg leave to state, that in consequence of the alleged inconvenience several vessels with cargo of grain and other goods anchored at this port were foundered and damaged in the storms which occurred several times in 1853, by which the petitioners and the revenue suffered greatly. Should the improvement above alluded to by the petitioners be completed, the petitioners will be able to carry on trade throughout the year, whereby the revenue will be greatly increased, and the petitioners also profited. The petitioners conceive that the expenses in completing the work will not be great.

Under the foregoing circumstances, the petitioners earnestly crave that your Excellency will be pleased to take this matter into consideration, and grant their request.

For which act of goodness, the petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

Point Pedro, March 15, 1856. [Here follow 107 signatures.]

B.

To his Excellency Sir HENRY GEORGE WARD, Knight Grand Cross of the most distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George, the Governor Commander-in-Chief in and over the Island of Ceylon and its dependencies,

The humble petition of Cathiracer Mootyer and others, the undersigned inhabitants of Valvettytorre and Valvetty.

May it please your Excellency,

That the petitioners most humbly beg to forward this petition to your Excellency under the deep conviction that your Excellency is kindly disposed to listen to the grievances of the community, and promote their interests.

The villages of which they are the residents are an extensive field, as regards merchandize; and Valvettytorre is possessed of fifty vessels (eleven square rigged vessels, and thirty-nine dhonies, &c.), and in this respect it excels Point Pedro, which is possessed of only less than twenty-five vessels (all dhonies, and not a single brig).

Now the petitioners would respectfully call your Excellency's attention to the fact that as they are obliged to land their cargoes at the port of Point Pedro, which is nearly at five miles distance, and as they run into considerable expenses on removing the goods, &c., they suffer considerable loss at the rate of per parah per fanam, and consequently they are obliged to sell their goods at Valvettytorre at a higher rate.

And your Excellency may easily know that in most cases, after landing and settlement of custom duties at Point Pedro, they are obliged to re-load their vessels with their goods, and take them to Valvettytorre, and in consequence of this they not only suffer a considerable loss, but also feel delayed in sailing, their vessels being detained in their removal.

Your Excellency may further know the relative advantage, on comparing the amount of cost per year and the speedy despatch of post to and from the coast, since the post establishment at Valvettytorre, with what it has been while it was at Point Pedro.

Under these circumstances, the petitioners most respectfully pray your Excellency would take this circumstance into kind consideration, and direct that they may be allowed to land their cargo at Valvettytorre instead of at Point Pedro, or at least to land them at Valvettytorre paying the duty at Point Pedro as usual.

For which act of goodness, the petitioners, as in duty bound, shall ever pray.

March 14, 1856. [Here follow 130 signatures.]

CEYLON.

MEMORANDUM of the number of square-rigged vessels and dhoneys belonging to Point Pedro and Valvettytorre, and their tonnage.

	Square-rigged Vessels.		Dhoneys.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
Point Pedro - - - - - -	—	—	25	1,141
Valvettytorre - - - - -	9	481	32	1,814
Total - -	9	481	57	2,955

C.

Memoranda on the Jaffna Public Hospital, submitted to his Excellency the Governor.

The attention of his Excellency is respectfully invited to the following statements, which contain in a summary form some account of the past history of this institution, of the partial accomplishment of its objects, of its present position, and proposals for the final completion of the original plan.

The case of this society presents the following features :—

1. The earnestness and spirit with which the local public took up the matter from the first, and the very large amount of the donations made towards this object. This was an effort in which all classes cordially shared, their contributions in money and land amounting to 1,287*l.*

2. It is unnecessary to remark upon the desirableness of encouraging all efforts of this nature. Every indication of energy and self-reliance that appears amongst the native population demands the fostering care of all who are interested in their elevation. Nobly have the people helped themselves, and I may confidently anticipate, for all concerned, his Excellency's commendation.

3. Government have always expressed a lively interest in this institution, and a willingness to contribute towards the completion of its permanent buildings. In October 1852 the hospital committee urgently requested Government to aid the "provision for "permanent accommodation and current operations in proportion equal to the contribu- "tions that have already been and may yet be made by the people of the place." The existing annual grant towards the upkeep of the institution is equal to the amount of private donations, and indeed Government have never made any objection to the principle which the committee desire should regulate the amount of the grants from the public revenues, but have recognized it in many instances where useful works have been undertaken by the inhabitants, and have invariably expressed "regret that the state of the "public finances did not admit of a grant being made in aid of the construction of "the permanent buildings." It is earnestly hoped that his Excellency will set this matter at rest, by distinctly recognizing the principle of contribution above referred to.

4 The recognition of this principle by his Excellency as applying to the fund for permanent buildings, as well as that for current operations, would have an immediate effect in enabling the committee to raise the additional sum of private donations required for the completion of their plans ; and in fact they would feel no difficulty in pledging themselves for the full performance of such conditions.

5. It should be stated, that in all the arrangements the committee have evinced the most liberal and confiding spirit ; for all the property, both land and buildings, is vested in Government, with power of "direction and control." The government agent and police magistrate are ex-officio members of the committee, an arrangement that affords to Government every security that the trust shall not be abused, as the deeds prevent the property from being ever alienated.

6. Another feature of the institution is its relation to the whole province. The in-door and out-door patients, who amounted to nearly 6,000 last year, come out from the town of Jaffna and its vicinity chiefly, but from every parish of the peninsula, with its population of more than 200,000 souls.

7. The committee have completed three permanent buildings ; a male ward, a dispensary and a dispenser's house. A permanent female ward, permanent outhouses, and residences for the servants employed in the institution, are still required. The first-named building is urgently wanted. The committee have endeavoured to supply this want to some extent by the erection of temporary buildings. Two such structures were blown down during a recent gale, putting the society to considerable expense, and endangering the lives of the patients.

8. The progressive usefulness of the hospital is marked and encouraging. A few statistics are subjoined.

	In-door patients.	Out-door patients.	Total.
1852	179	3,808	3,987
1853	252	4,287	4,539
1854	310	5,785	6,095
1855	345	5,500	5,845

9. The attention of his Excellency is particularly invited to the fact, that a large number of serious cases is annually sent to the hospital by the police courts an arrangement by which the fees usually paid to medical men on such occasions are saved to the public. Of such cases there were in

1852	68
1853	49
1854	108
1855	99

10. The utmost publicity is given to all the proceedings of the society. The accounts, and an abstract of hospital cases, are published once a quarter in a local newspaper. A complete set of books is kept by the society, from which all statements and statistics are carefully extracted. The institution enjoys public confidence.

11. The arrangements made for the medical treatment of the sick are of a very satisfactory character. An annual supply of medicines is procured direct from Apothecaries Hall, and the whole of the dispensing and hospital establishments are placed under the immediate supervision of the medical officer of the station, assisted by a native young man, who was educated for the medical profession by a physician attached to the American mission.

12. His Excellency will be pleased to observe, that a large proportion of the finances of the committee has been absorbed in the purchase of land for a suitable site. On most other stations, Government would have been able to sanction the occupation of Crown lands, and would have supplemented that grant by a pecuniary donation from the public funds.

The permanent buildings already erected, are

A male ward	cost	£500
Dispensary	do.	260
Dispenser's house	do.	120

The permanent buildings required, are

A range of rooms for those who will pay rent		100
A female ward,	estimated cost	500
Outhouses	do.	60
Residences for servants	do.	40
Operation-room	do.	60

The amount of private donations is

In money	£860	
In land	427	
		£1287
Government grant of land		400
Amount of grant to be paid by Government, to make its donations equal to the total of private contributions		£887

JOHN WALTON,
Secretary F. N. Society.

Jaffna, March 14, 1856.

CEYLON.

D.

STATEMENT of the Number of Cases and Number of Persons tried before the Supreme Court, in each of the three periods of twelve years ending respectively in 1831, 1843, and 1855, for some of the principal Crimes against Property and Person.

	Cases tried in the Twelve Years ending.			Persons tried in the Twelve Years ending.			
	1831.	1843.	1855.	1831.	1843.	1855.	
Robbery and murder -	1	—	—	9	—	—	
* „ and rape -	4	—	—	8	—	—	
* „ with ear-cutting -	36	20	5	193	77	22	No case since 1848.
* „ with other violence	76	49	16	300	207	112	
Burglary and robbery -	69	89	58	219	224	225	The bearing of this will be seen by the note below.
Murder - - -	22	12	31	32	24	74	Executed in the first period, two in one case; the second, nine in three ditto; the third, three, in three ditto.
Manslaughter and homicide	9	11	9	9	19	12	
Assaults with wounding, and other violent assaults	44	44	13	125	98	40	
	261	225	132	895	649	485	
*All cases of robbery -	186	158	79	729	508	359	So probably those without violence will not decrease in number till those with violence have nearly ceased.

E.

To his Excellency the Governor, &c. &c. &c.

The humble Petition of the under-mentioned Police Vidahns of Jaffna.

May it please your Excellency,

That the petitioners most humbly beg leave to state to your Excellency that they are police vidahns, and manage their duties without any remuneration for the trouble they take, and as headmen they have to do more than any other officers, viz., that they, for the most part, serve all kinds of processes issued from the court, as well as from the fiscal's office, and are often obliged to produce the parties so served; and they have to look to the internal order of the places over which they hold the office; to check all disorders; to be prepared, day and night, to go to the place where any disturbance is to take place; to keep the place clean, freed from all filth and dirt; to make reports of all deaths and accidents; to make annually a return of births and deaths, and of all kinds of animals in charge of each inhabitant, separately; to grant certificates for the sale of all cattle and other animals, to which latter only they are authorized to take a small fee, which is nothing compared with the trouble which they are obliged to undertake; whereas the other headmen, namely odears and maniagars, who, although they have very little to do, are in the receipt of payment, commission upon all the sales of rent and taxes, and fees for granting schedules and registering marriages.

The petitioners further beg to state, that they are, every day throughout the year, obliged to attend the court, and wait till the evening to hear the orders of the magistrate, touching the cases of their respective villages; and if they should happen to take any income from the people, or the parties of different cases, there will be great injustice towards them. There was some remuneration formerly allowed when the patrol watch was established, but now such watch is discontinued.

Therefore petitioners humbly pray that your Excellency will be graciously pleased to take their petitions into merciful consideration, and order for a monthly salary to them.

For which act of goodness, petitioners, as in duty bound,

Jaffna, March 15, 1856. shall ever pray.

[Here follow 39 signatures.]

Encl. 5 in No. 35.

Enclosure 5 in No. 35.

MINUTE ON THE NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCE.

IN conformity with the practice which I have hitherto adopted after my various tours of inspection, I wish to submit to the Executive Council some observations upon the north-western province, and upon the various interests connected with it.

In the first place, it is my pleasing duty to record my entire satisfaction with the manner in which the works upon the Natande canal have been executed. The navigation between Colombo and Putlam is now open, and I had the pleasure of seeing a long string of boats, deeply laden with salt and copperah, passing through a part of the canal which in September 1855 was completely closed by a mass of black mud, varying from four to six feet depth, and covered with coarse grass and rushes. This mud-bank, extending for nearly a mile and half, was the result of long neglect; but, as I anticipated, it required nothing but money and labour to restore the level of the canal, by giving free passage to the water above and below the obstruction. The work presented "no engineering difficulties, worthy of the name,"—it required "neither locks nor retaining walls." The banks "have been strengthened by piles, where the soil was loose;" and "drainage pits" have been constructed to prevent the sand and mud of the adjoining paddy-fields from being carried, bodily, into the canal during the inundations. All that now remains to be done, in order to maintain this valuable navigation, is to bear in mind what I also ventured to suggest in the minute to which I have here referred*, namely, that "success in this, or any other system that can be adopted, depends upon a constant and "vigilant superintendence," and upon powers being vested in some competent person "to "remedy small defects upon his own responsibility, without waiting for estimates and "references, during which the evil may increase a hundred fold."

I cannot too strongly insist upon this point, for I consider it to be a vital one. Every canal-trust in England has its local manager constantly upon the spot, and ready to deal at once with accidental damages from floods or other causes; yet in Ceylon, where the accidents are infinitely graver, from the violence and suddenness of the atmospheric changes, and where the work of years may be destroyed in a night, unless the most vigorous measures be resorted to, there is no provision for such emergencies. Even the daily injuries arising from cattle trespass are regarded with indifference, although a moderate amount of precaution might put a stop to them; and while the money required for the execution of a large work is not grudged, there is a rooted indisposition to incur the small annual expenditure indispensable for its preservation.

In the present case, I trust that the Councils will concur with me in thinking that eighty-six miles of inland navigation, every stoppage in which affects materially the supply of salt to Colombo, and consequently to all those parts of the western and central provinces which are dependent upon the Colombo market, ought not again to be jeopardized by the refusal to appropriate an amount at least equivalent to the tolls to those timely repairs without which no canal was ever yet kept open. From the table published with the report of the sub-committee of the Legislative Council in 1855, it appears, that in the year 1848 the sum expended upon the Putlam and Negombo canals was "*l. s. d.*",—that in 1849 it was 35*l.*,—in 1850, 127*l.* 17*s.* 3¼*d.*; and then came the natural consequences, a heavy outlay of 1,929*l.*, which proved wholly incommensurate with the injury done, and a series of inadequate votes and disappointed expectations. The fact being that nobody liked to look the evil fairly in the face, and that the obstructions, which had been allowed to accumulate in three years of most ill-judged economy, continued to increase in a ratio infinitely greater than the work that could be done with the money voted for their removal.

I have directed an estimate to be prepared of the traffic that may reasonably be expected upon the canal, when the confidence of boat-owners is restored by the assurance that it will be kept in navigable order; and it will be for the Council to consider, in the session of 1857 what amount of toll should be imposed upon the boats using this line of communication.

It is probable, also, that some legislative enactment will be required for the more effectual suppression of cattle trespass. For, however necessary buffaloes may be to the natives in their agricultural pursuits, (and in the Putlam district they are largely used for carts, as well as ploughing,) the owners of these animals must be taught that they are not to be allowed to roam over the country at pleasure, destroying public works, upon the maintenance of which the prosperity of the province depends, since the canal affords by far the cheapest access to the largest market.

I have authorized the commissioner of public works to incur any necessary expense, during the next few months, for the prevention of this evil; and the headmen of the villages adjoining the canal have been warned that as accommodation bridges have been provided by the liberality of the public at every point where they were stated to be required for agricultural purposes, there is no excuse whatsoever for indulgence in a matter which is of the greatest consequence, since no care can prevent the banks of the canal from being broken down, or its channel from being choked up by earth trampled into solid mud the moment it reaches the bottom, if herds of buffaloes are allowed to make crossing-places wherever they choose, and to pass whole days and nights in the water.

At present the appearance of the canal is most gratifying. A perfect current of water is established between the northern lakes and the Maha Oya; the banks in many places have been turfed and levelled; the drainage pits are working satisfactorily. The

* Minute of July 19, 1855

vote for 1857 will provide amply for any demands that can now be foreseen, and the work done up to December 1856 has not exceeded the estimate. The Council, therefore, will have the satisfaction of feeling that for 3,000*l.* the line of navigation between Colombo and Putlam has been restored; and as Colombo again is united by another line of water communication with Caltura, from whence the Kellooganga conveys goods into the heart of Saffragam, the distance from point to point cannot be less than 163 miles of continuous canal traffic; an advantage which it is difficult to overrate in an island where the coasting trade is always impeded by the monsoons, and often suspended for many months together.

Mr. Campbell's exertions in this laborious undertaking entitle him to the highest praise; the spirit and discipline which he introduced amongst his men were admirable. I have had great pleasure in conferring the rank of mohandiram of the northern inland navigation upon Korokoelasoria David Fernando, his very able native assistant; and I hope that in the revision of the fixed establishments next session means may be found to show that the Government appreciates Mr. Campbell's labours, by intrusting him with the special charge of works which he has been mainly instrumental in creating. The retaining-walls built by this gentleman upon the line of the Hamilton canal, as well as between Negombo and the Maha'Oya, appear to have been eminently successful; and I should recommend their gradual extension wherever the soil is loose and sandy, if stone can be found within a reasonable distance.

Doowe Island.

While at Negombo I visited the island of Doowe, the existence of which was menaced, twelve months ago, by the inroads of the sea, and the gradual disappearance of the sand-bank upon which the village is situated. The inhabitants are all fishermen, and amongst the most industrious and enterprising of their class. The island, which is densely populated, is peculiarly suited for this pursuit, as the canoes can be drawn up on the beach, and launched, in either monsoon, changing from one side to the other, as is required. The houses are clean and well built. The church is a large and solid structure. The whole population is catholic, and placed under the charge of two missionaries, one of whom must be a man of considerable ability, for it is to his perseverance and energy, in carrying out a suggestion of the surveyor-general, Captain Gosset, that the island is indebted for its preservation from the dangers with which it was menaced.

When I saw it in August last the sea was within six yards of the church; it is now not within sixty yards, and this is due entirely to the erection of a number of angular heaps of stone, with the edge of the wedge facing the sea, each of which became the nucleus of a new formation of sand, so that, instead of the sea gaining upon the land, the land has been gaining upon the sea; and it is now clear that the island may be preserved in its integrity, provided the process be more extensively adopted.

As I think this an object well worthy of public aid, and as the stone required for the work must be quarried and brought from a considerable distance on the main land, I have promised the missionaries a grant in aid of 100*l.*, they undertaking to find the whole of the labour, and to be accountable for the application of the money to a government engineer.

I propose that the 100*l.* should be advanced in two instalments of 50*l.* each, through the government agent and the police magistrate at Negombo, Mr. Jumeaux; and that Mr. Campbell should report upon the progress of the work before the second instalment is paid.

Madampe Dam and Irrigation Works.

The restoration of the tank at Madampe, connected as it is with the irrigation of 600 acres of paddy land now producing only one crop in the year, and the probable sale of 500 acres of Crown jungle in lots of five and ten acres at a highly remunerative price, provided a supply of water be ensured, was the first object that engaged my attention after leaving Natande. The whole population of the country appears to take a lively interest in this scheme, and the ground about the village presents great natural facilities for carrying it out, the cocoanut topes, amongst which the houses stand, forming three sides of the tank, so that an embankment is required only on the fourth side, where the remains of a dam are still to be seen. A simple mound of earth five or six feet in height will be sufficient, I am assured, to prevent the escape of the water. The cost of this, together with the spill water and sluices proposed by Mr. Royston, who has made a survey of the ground by my directions, will not exceed 1,200*l.*, of which the district would contribute one third in money or labour, providing at the same time for the maintenance of the dam by bringing itself under the Irrigation Act. The sale of the Crown land, at the prices which I am taught to expect (from 3*l.* to 3*l.* 10*s.* per acre), would more than cover the whole expenditure; in addition to which the Government would gain the tenth upon the second crop of paddy that would be produced by the land already under cultivation, if the supply of water were increased by raising the water in the tank to its original level. In short, I hardly know a more promising undertaking, provided the scheme present no unforeseen engineering difficulties.

In order to guard against these, I have submitted Mr. Royston's survey to the surveyor-general, who has put upon paper the points that appear to him still to require elucidation; and it is only when all scientific doubts are removed that the government agent will proceed to the spot, and endeavour to come to some formal understanding with the inhabitants as to the terms of the agreement to be concluded.

Chilaw.

Bridge. Courthouse. Gaol. Tank Repairs.

When I was at Chilaw in August last, I received various petitions for the abatement of a grievance to which the inhabitants of the whole district are subjected, by the situation of the courthouse, which is built upon an island, and only accessible by a ferry, so that every person attending the court is taxed going and returning, both in his own person and in that of his witnesses.

It was at first supposed that a timber bridge might be built for 700*l.*, which would remove the difficulty; but the pin-worm abounds in the river, and the piles would require perpetual renewing. An iron bridge would cost 2,500*l.*, the span being 400 feet; while the court-house could be removed, and rebuilt in the fort, for 200*l.*, using the old materials.

I think that this course should be adopted. The inconvenience to the district judge will be infinitely less than the inconvenience now inflicted upon the suitors. The distance is short, and a courthouse should certainly be placed wherever it is likely to accommodate the greatest number. I have accordingly authorized Major Skinner to proceed with the work, charging the amount, 200*l.*, to the supply vote for 1857. I have likewise desired an estimate to be prepared for repairing the judge's bungalow upon the island, and for enclosing it with a fence strong enough to keep off the cattle, which now bivouac in the verandah, and utterly destroy the property. The house is well situated. It may be put and kept in repair at a very trifling cost; but as a rest-house it is useless, on account of its distance from the bazaar, and the want of stabling. I propose, therefore, to repair the old rest-house in the fort, for the accommodation of ordinary travellers. The gaol will also require a thorough repair, but that must await the report of the gaol commission appointed last session.

Tanks.

I am indebted to a confidential report left with me by Mr. Mooyart on his departure from Putlam, for a very interesting sketch of the state of the tanks about Chilaw, and the practicability of improving them. In this the Government is doubly interested, being a large proprietor of tank and of paddy land, as well as deriving a benefit from every increase in the general cultivation. But Mr. Mooyart not being an engineer, it is impossible to say what value may attach to his suggestions until they have been tested by some competent officer. The system recommended by him, probably upon the suggestion of the natives, is large and complicated. Upon one point, the carrying a dam of 400 feet across the Dedra Oya, it is obviously impracticable. In other respects there seems to be no insuperable obstacle; and it was my wish to have had a report upon the subject from Mr. Smith, who formerly served in the Department of Public Works; but that gentleman having asked 1,000*l.* for the survey, I have declined to avail myself of his assistance, and we must now wait for an opportunity to place the matter in other hands, as soon as the public service will admit of it.

Road between Chilaw and Putlam.

The bridges upon this road are generally in a very bad state, especially those in the vicinity of Chilaw, where an embankment is carried across a swampy piece of ground for nearly three miles. Parts of this are all but impassable. Fortunately, the timber used being palloo, the wood is perfectly sound, and only requires re-fastening with a few additional planks where wanted.

Major Skinner, who accompanied me, has given the necessary orders for this, as also for clearing away the jungle, which is encroaching rapidly upon the road; and an active and intelligent officer being now in charge of the district, improvements may be looked for without the necessity of any extraordinary expenditure.

Putlam.

The repair of the cutcherry is indispensable. It is impossible to conceive a building in a more discreditable state or more unfit for any public purpose; and if another rainy season be allowed to begin before the roof is put into proper order, the damage already done will be doubled.

The rest-house, too, is fast going to ruin. The house of the assistant agent requires some repairs, but not of a serious character; and the fence of the compound in which all these buildings are situated must be renewed, and provided with gates, in order to keep out the cattle, which now swarm about the place, where they find both food and shelter. I am aware that government agents are often induced, by the fear of being thought extravagant, to refrain from asking for necessary repairs until the evil becomes intolerable.

CEYLON.

But delay in many cases is an absolute wrong to the public; it doubles and triples the ultimate outlay; and wherever the Government has an officer in charge of public works he should be directed to make a yearly survey of the buildings at his station, and to report such repairs as he deems to be indispensable. If the necessity for these arose from want of proper care on the part of the occupant for the time being, this also might be reported. But in the interest of the public there must be a power somewhere to do small things as soon as they are wanted (mending a roof, or a fence or a door, &c.), for I have seen more harm done by the want of this than by any other single cause that I can point to.

I may add, that the state of the cutcherry furniture at Putlam is most disgraceful, the floors of some of the rooms being strewed with papers properly belonging to the archives, there being no presses or closets of any kind to hold them. Upon this point also means must be found to secure periodical reports from some impartial authority; and the best mode of doing this would probably be to require the Commissioner of Public Works when he visits an out-station to send in a written report of the public furniture, and to state what is wanting for the purpose of carrying on the general business.

Salt Revenue.

But the one great question at Putlam is the salt revenue, upon which I have recorded my views in a separate minute. Judging by outward appearances, I should say that there never yet was a Government monopoly so loosely administered; that the most obvious precautions for the security of the property are wanting; and that, without a superhuman amount of honesty in all connected with the works, which no Government has a right to expect, still less to rely upon as the basis of a financial operation, it is morally certain that the population must be taxed to an amount wholly incommensurate with the income derived from this branch of the revenue, the monopoly price of salt being maintained for the benefit of the contraband trader.

This to my mind is the worst result possible. It injures the revenue. It demoralizes the people. The Government should either make the monopoly a reality, or give it up altogether. If the price of one of the first necessaries of life is to be raised by law to sixteen times its intrinsic value, we should at least take care that the sacrifice produce its full fruit in available revenue, the benefits of which may be brought home to all by public works and useful institutions. I have, therefore, thought it advisable to appoint a commission, consisting of the acting auditor general, Mr. Lee, and Mr. P. W. Braybrooke, the first assistant to the colonial secretary, with powers to investigate the whole system, pointing out its defects, and suggesting the necessary remedies.

I do not intend to limit this inquiry to Putlam. It must extend ultimately to Hambantotte and the eastern province, where we have had recent proofs of its necessity, the son of the storekeeper at Nilavelle having petitioned to be allowed to pay for 2,183 bushels of salt, which are found to be deficient in his father's accounts, at the cost price of the salt, not at the selling price, while the government agent very properly reports, that as there is ground for "supposing" that the deficiency discovered is only part of a much more extensive system of plunder, he sees no reason why this request should be complied with.

To me it seems that there should be no "supposition" in the matter; that things of this sort should be matters of account, not of conjecture; that the Government should have the means at any time of verifying the stock of salt upon hand, and of testing the real loss by wastage, which is now made to cover everything; that it never can do this until it adopt the recommendation of the Board of Audit in England, by causing its salt stores to be divided into compartments, and taking proper measures for their safe keeping; and that, whatever be the expense attending this change, it will be more than repaid by the increased productiveness of the revenue, which in this case will not be accompanied by increased pressure upon the people.

But I feel confident that the gentlemen to whom this inquiry is intrusted will spare no pains to bring it to an useful and practical conclusion; and I shall be much mistaken if the colony do not derive considerable pecuniary advantages from their labours.

NATCHIKALLE.

Although the produce of salt at Natchikalle is much smaller than that of Putlam, and the precautions taken for its safe keeping greater, the stores being all provided with doors that will lock, and the sides, though made of cajean, being in good repair, the station nevertheless presents some peculiarities which I could hardly have credited without having seen them personally.

The first duty of a Government which becomes the sole proprietor and vendor of salt in an island containing one million and a half of people is to take care that the monopoly price be not enhanced by unnecessary difficulties in conveying the article to market. The whole of the salt made in the Natchikally salt pans goes to Colombo. The salt pans are situated nearly in the centre of a long narrow peninsula, ending in the headland of Calpentyn, and bounded by the Putlam lake on the one side and by the sea on the other. During the N.E. monsoon which corresponds with the season when the manufacture of salt for the year is completed, vessels may not only approach the beach

at Natchikalle with safety, but lie there within 40 yards of the shore, under the protection of the reef, which forms a natural anchorage. Yet, in lieu of availing themselves of these advantages, the dhonies from Colombo are forced to go round the headland of Calpentyn, in the very teeth of the N.E. monsoon, into the lake of Putlam, and there to anchor off the canal which leads from the lake to Natchikalle, precisely opposite the point upon the seaboard at which they ought to take in their cargoes; and they spend upon an average 14 days in performing this most unnecessary and difficult voyage.

The matter was brought to the notice of Government 14 years ago, by Mr. Forbes, when government agent at Putlam, and authority was given to open a road between Natchikally and the sea shore, which was made at a cost of 485*l.* by Mr. Brodie. The distance is not above three quarters of a mile; but as the surrounding country is all sand, the materials had to be procured by blasting coral reefs upon the coast, which accounts for the heavy expenditure.

Unfortunately, Mr. Brodie either exceeded his estimate, or had not included in it the cost of a small bridge over the canal which separates the road from the salt stores, and the work, having been brought to within 30 yards of the principal store, has remained useless ever since, from the want of a bridge to connect them.

I am informed that the cost of this bridge will not exceed 50*l.* I have walked over Mr. Brodie's road with the commissioner of public works and the acting assistant agent at Putlam, Mr. Russel. We consider that although covered in many places with sand, the original construction was so good that it may be rendered perfectly available for bandies by an outlay of 50*l.* or 60*l.*; and I have consequently authorized Major Skinner to expend at once 120*l.* in re-opening and completing this line of communication, thus giving to the public the benefit of the 485*l.* spent in 1845, and from which it has not yet derived the slightest advantage.

The master attendant of Colombo should be requested to supply a buoy to be placed at the southern extremity of the reef which runs off Natchikalle; and the dhonies engaged in the salt trade with that place may then be informed that they are at liberty to load upon the beach, and that arrangements will be made for delivering the salt there, instead of upon the Putlam side, as at present.

Road to Kurnegalle.

The water communication with Colombo being amply provided for by the restoration of the Natande canal, and the opening of a bandy road between the salt depôt and the sea at Natchikalle, it only remains for me to remark upon the state of the road between Putlam and Kurnegalle, this being the principal channel by which salt and salt fish, two main articles in the domestic economy of the natives, are conveyed into the seven corles, and the central province.

The Kurnegalle road was one of those great lines of communication the importance of which in a commercial as well as in a military point of view was seen by Sir Edward Barnes at a very early period. The road was opened by him in 1821, and it has been left ever since unmetalled, unbridged, and most imperfectly repaired by a very scanty application of ordinance labour.

Yet the traffic upon it is considerable, and would increase rapidly, if the road were made passable at all seasons. 10,000 bandies a year, or from 800 to 900 a month, ply between Putlam and Kurnegelle; and a toll upon these of 4*s.* when full, and 2*s.* when empty, would produce 3,000*l.* a year, which would be amply sufficient to cover the annual repairs if the road were put into good order. At present there are no tolls; and although from the favourable nature of the soil, which for 40 miles out of the 54 is composed of rock or gravel, carts can pass over a great part of the line without much difficulty, there are other parts, in the neighbourhood of Putlam and Anemadua, over which nothing but buffaloes can drag a wheeled conveyance of any kind; and there are also two or three most dangerous oyas, which in the rainy season interrupt the communication for a week or ten days together.

The first and worst of these obstacles occurs close to Putlam, where a mass of deep sand and mud extends for five miles towards the interior. Fortunately, there are both gravel and stones in the vicinity, and it would be easy, consequently, to construct a causeway which would carry on the communication to Anemadua, 16 miles from Putlam. Three miles beyond Anemadua there is an embankment, well traced and drained, but never metalled, and now two feet deep in mud, over which the horses found their way with the greatest difficulty. This embankment extends for nearly three miles; but if upon these two points the road were once thoroughly made, I feel satisfied that it might be kept open throughout the year by the produce of the tolls, and by ordinance labour, to the great advantage both of the Government and the public.

I have consequently authorized the commissioner of public works to prepare an estimate, showing the amount of money that might be usefully expended this year, in commencing this work, and it is my intention to sanction this expenditure upon a supplementary vote, leaving it to the Legislative Council to provide for its continuance in the estimate for 1858.

With regard to bridges, the most pressing wants of the district can be provided for without any extraordinary outlay, by placing two of the iron bridges recently ordered

CEYLON.

in England at the Tirrepitchany ella, which forms the outlet of the tank of Nicaravetia and at the Maggroo oya, six miles from Kurnegalle, the banks of which are so precipitous that the place is noted for highway robberies, no less than five instances having occurred within the last year of carts being plundered while attempting the passage. The first of these requires a bridge of 50 feet span, the second of 100. There must also be a timber bridge of 30 feet at Tallacallaheina, which is often a formidable stream, though kept at so low a level, in order not to interfere with the traffic upon the road, that it is rendered unserviceable for the purposes of irrigation. With a bridge and a temporary dam, the headmen state that 200 acres of excellent paddy land may be brought again into cultivation.

The cost of this bridge will not exceed 120*l.*; and the commissioner of public works proposes to proceed at once with the abutments both for that and the two iron bridges, so as to be prepared for their immediate erection upon their arrival from England. This must also be provided for by a supplementary vote, when I know the amount required, as the bridges may then be forwarded direct to their intended site, without being placed in store at Colombo.

Major Skinner also recommends that a third iron bridge of 50 feet span should be appropriated to the Kispotta oya, between Kurnegalle and Kandy. The abutments were commenced 30 years ago; and the growing importance of the district, where coffee planting is rapidly increasing, renders it highly desirable that the work should be completed.

When these proposals are carried out, there will be a continuous line of bandy road open for eighty miles, from Putlam to Kandy, and through Kandy to all the most important parts of the interior, the only river not being bridged over being the Dedra oya, between Nicaravetia and Warriapolle, a deep and dangerous stream, which must be dealt with ultimately, but which cannot be so at present without an outlay disproportioned to the actual state of the communications, which I do not propose to perfect, but to make available for practical purposes, and more especially for the easy and regular transmission of salt to those parts of the island where the consumption is largest, and the demand susceptible of the greatest extension.

The road from Kurnegalle to Kandy (26 miles) is in very fair order, and may be kept so by ordinance labour.

Nicoveretia Tank.

When at Nicoveretia I inspected this tank, to which my attention was called during my previous visit to Kurnegalle (September 1855), and with regard to which a deep interest is felt by the whole surrounding country. The tank was originally 19 miles in circumference; it is now reduced to five or six miles, by the bursting of the dam which confined the waters of the river that serves as its feeder, and the level of the water in the tank is so low that it has become unavailable for the purposes of irrigation.

I visited the site of the old dam with Major Skinner; and if a simple earthen embankment, rudely constructed by the natives, was sufficient to stay the course of the stream for seven years, which is the statement made to us by the headmen and villagers, a large number of whom accompanied us, I can see no difficulty in constructing a masonry dam that would effect the same object permanently at a comparatively moderate cost, as both stone and lime may be found in the neighbourhood. Unfortunately, the survey which I ordered to be made 12 months ago by Mr. Scott, who was at that time stationed at Kurnegalle, is of so hasty and superficial a character that it does not afford sufficient data for a decision, and I must refer the matter to Mr. Churchill or Captain Sim, whose employment, as consulting engineer in cases of this sort the Secretary of State was pleased to authorize, before I can venture upon any recommendation.

It is necessary to ascertain in the first instance the practicability of the work,—which, from the depth of the channel across which the dam must be carried, and the large mass of water to be retained, must naturally present some engineering difficulties,—the probable cost, and the extent of the land to be brought under cultivation if the scheme be successful, for it is to this that the Government must look for a return for its advances. The district offers one great advantage; it has an abundant population; and this is one of the elements of success, which in most of the tank countries is entirely wanting.

Kurnegalle.

The transfer of the residence of the government agent at Kurnegalle, where there cannot be a doubt that it always ought to have been placed, and the removal from Putlam of a part of his establishment, will require considerable alterations in the cutcherry, which is badly situated, badly lighted, badly ventilated, and altogether unsuited to the work to be done in it, the number of clerks employed, and the climate. An offer has been made to the Government of a newly-built house, which might be bought for 550*l.*, and would afford the requisite accommodation; but there are doubts as to its solidity, and nothing can be done without a careful examination and report by the local officer. In one way or the other, however, the necessary accommodation must be given, for it is impossible that the public business can be properly conducted without it.

Some alterations will also be required in the government agent's house; and the gaol, as usual, is deficient in almost every essential requisite.

I cannot close this "Minute" without expressing the very great pleasure that I have derived from witnessing the excellent spirit evinced by the people in every part of the seven korles that I visited. The commissioner of public works, who had known the district in 1848, when it was eminently disaffected, was much struck with the change I ascribe it partly to the improvements that have taken place in the administration of the provinces under my predecessors, and which have brought home to all classes a sense of the advantages of British rule, and partly to the gratification experienced by the people at seeing Kurnegalle again made the seat of government; the crops too during the present season have been peculiarly abundant. The population generally evince a lively interest in the improemvent of their roads, and look with much favour upon the Irrigation Act, from which they anticipate great advantages. And all these causes, combined with the circumstance that I am, I believe, the only Governor that has passed along the Putlam road since the time of Sir Edward Barnes, procured me the honour of a reception, most gratifying in itself, but doubly so when viewed as a proof that the Government has to deal here with an observing and intelligent people, able to appreciate and ready gratefully to acknowledge every act that is intended for its benefit.

Pavilion, Kandy, January 30, 1857. H. G. WARD.

POSTSCRIPT.

I now append to this Minute the results of the inquiries made upon some of the more important points adverted to in it.

1. The report of Captain Sim, R.E., upon the tank of Nicoveretia.
2. The report of Mr. Churchill upon the irrigation scheme at Madampe.
3. The report of the commissioners appointed to inquire into the salt revenue.

I have the more pleasure in inviting the attention of the Councils to this most able and judicious paper, because, although upon many points the views of the commissioners coincide with my own, as to the defects of the present system, and the desirableness of improving it, the results of their inquiries entirely disprove much of the information given to me before my visit to Putlam, or rather show the inaccuracy of the construction which from unacquaintance with the details of the salt administration I had been led to put upon that information.

The sale of salt in large quantities, from the kottoos of the manufacturers, where it cannot be weighed or brought to account with the same accuracy as when received into the Government stores, may be and no doubt is an objectionable practice; but it was never intended by my informant to indicate the existence of a contraband trade to any thing like the extent of the salt thus dealt with. However, I can hardly regret a mistake which has led to so many suggestions fraught with advantage to the revenue and to the people. I have considered that I should only anticipate the wishes of the Council in proceeding at once with such of these recommendations as were likely to be productive of immediate benefit, such as the improvement of the road between Putlam and Kurnegalle, and the opening of the communication between the sea and the salt stores at Natckically.

I have also written to England for the weighing machines and brass weights required, and a vote for the new salt stores, divided into compartments, and concentrated, as recommended, wherever this is practicable, will be prepared in the estimates for 1858.

I have much satisfaction in adding, that, thanks to the arrangements made by Captain Oldfield, who is now in charge of the Putlam district, a sufficient supply of labour to complete the five first miles of road after leaving Putlam has been secured, and that within the present year I hope to see the removal of this great obstacle to free communication with the interior.

June 15, 1857. H. G. WARD.

Enclosure 6 in No. 35. **Encl. 6 in No. 35.**

MINUTE ON THE EASTERN PROVINCE.

I HAVE already laid before the Executive Council the results of my observations upon the state of the northern province and upon the Badulla roads. It remains to me to put into a similar shape the views suggested by my visit to Trincomalie, which occupied me from the 11th February to 3d March, when I entered the district of Newera Kalawiya. These views will, I hope, be found not undeserving of attention, from their connexion with what I may term the "tank question." I mean the question as to the practicability and prudence of attempting to restore the system of artificial irrigation, which, under different circumstances and in other times, unquestionably gave food and employment to a vast population in parts of the island which are now a desert.

CEYLON.

This subject was brought before me at a very early period after my arrival here, by a report* upon the ancient canal of Ellehara, prepared by Messrs. Churchill, Adams, and Bailey. I have much pleasure in laying before the Executive Council this document, because it does credit to the enterprise, perseverance, and public spirit of the gentlemen who prepared it, and who voluntarily undertook a very laborious duty. It will be found to merit an attentive perusal, for it shows an immense amount of time, science, and combined exertion that must have been brought to bear upon works of irrigation at a period when agriculture in Europe was in the rudest and most primitive state. It proves, too, how vain human efforts are to stay the operation of those mightier causes which, though now lost in obscurity, have influenced the march of civilization, and which, so far as we can judge, by altering the course of navigation and trade, must have deprived Ceylon of those local advantages which made her, in earlier ages, the commercial depôt of the surrounding countries, and thus both created the necessity for those extraordinary works of which we admire the remains and furnished her with the means of executing them. For the purpose of these works in every instance seems to have been to provide food for a superabundant population. They may have been used, as the Ellehara canal was, for traffic also ; but irrigation was the primary object; and in the neighbourhood of most of the tanks, though the ground is now covered with forest trees the growth of many centuries, it is easy to trace for miles around the ridges which denote the extent of paddy cultivation that once occupied the space now hid by interminable jungle.

This is not, however, the place or the time to inquire into the causes that led to these revolutions. All that we know positively or can collect from ancient records is, that there must once have been a large population congregated upon the western side of the island, in the neighbourhood of Manaar and Aripo; that the causes which prompted the selection of this barren and desolate coast as a commercial emporium, probably determined the choice of Anaradhapoora as the seat of Government; and this again led to the construction of the Giants' Tank and Padiwel Colum, the most wonderful work that I have yet visited, whether we look to size, difficulties of execution, or to the time at which these were surmounted, the 62nd year of the Christian era ; that other causes, equally obscure to us, forced back this teeming population, leaving every where traces of its industry and skill to the neighbourhood of Pollinarua, where its second capital was founded; that this second capital, like the first, is now a wilderness, and that nothing remains but the long line of tanks which unite it with Tamblegam Bay and Trincomalie to bespeak its ancient magnificence.

My object in visiting this scene of past splendour was a practical one. I wished to ascertain the state of the principal tanks, and to form an opinion as to the possibility of turning them to account, in connexion with modern improvements. I was accompanied on my tour by the government agents for the central and eastern provinces, as well as by Captain Sim, R.E., and Mr. Adams, one of the gentlemen who explored the Ellehara canal, and who took the direction of the party from the time that we left the main road to Trincomalie, which we did six miles beyond Dambool, at the Tappal station of Innamalluwe, until we rejoined it again at Kandelly.

Our first day's march from Dambool was to Sigiri, a place too well known to require description.

It is the first and smallest of the line of tanks that fills the space parallel with the road from Innamalluwe to Kandelly. Indeed, as a tank it hardly deserves to be classed with its neighbours, as it has no artificial supply of water, but simply receives in a natural hollow the drainage of the surrounding country, and more particularly of the rock upon which the old fortress of Sigiri stands. From Sigiri to Kondruwawe, the first of the artificial tanks formed by regular "bund" or embankment of earth faced with stone, the distance is about eight miles. The whole intervening country is jungle, with the exception of a small amount of paddy cultivation in the vicinity of Kondruwawe.

The road is a path of the most rugged character, intersected by roots of trees and masses of rock; and a similar path leads for another eight miles from Kondruwawe to Angoulasse, a deserted village, once probably the centre of a large population, for before reaching it we crossed the "bund" of another tank, which, though now buried in jungle, must, from the size of the embankment and of the stones with which it is covered, have been of no ordinary dimensions. As we did not reach Angoulasse till dusk, the lateness of the hour prevented closer inquiry.

From Angoulasse to Topari or Pollinarua the distance is not above eight miles, yet even in that space another beautiful tank occurs, which looked more like a natural lake than a piece of artificial water, when viewed from the top of the "bund," along which we rode for 25 minutes, shaded by magnificent trees, the size of which bespeaks the antiquity of the embankment, on which they stand. This tank is the tank of Dimitelli.

It occupies a plain opening at one end upon the distant mountains of Matelle, from whence it draws its supplies of water which are retained on one side by a natural slope, on the other side and at the end next Topari by artificial mounds of earth and stone. The embankments are perfect. The sluice or spill water has been replaced by a temporary

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* See Appendix A., page 318.

dam, which is not in good repair, and the leakage may ultimately injure the bund if not attended to. The object of the tank seems to have been the irrigation of the country between Dimitelli and Pollinarua, a space of above four miles, which is now a park studded with large trees, but bearing evident marks of ancient cultivation.

There would not, I presume, be any difficulty in restoring this whole district to its original state, if there were men to till the ground, or a market for the produce. The last might be found in the course of a few years in the growing demands of the Matelle coffee estates ; but the other condition of renewed fertility seems to have disappeared altogether. From Dambool to Topari we did not see a village, and hardly a human creature.

Pollinarua or Topari, the capital of Ceylon after the abandonment of Anaradhapoora, lies upon the borders of another tank, somewhat inferior in size and beauty to Dimitelli, but filling a large portion of the plain around which the ancient town was situated. Ruins of temples and dagobas and other public edifices mark its site, and show the great extent of ground which it covered. Many of these are still in a very perfect state. The paths that lead to them, cleared by the temple tenants, and trodden by frequent passengers, show that the place has not yet lost its prestige, and that the pilgrims to Dambool often include it in their devotional visits. Still there is an air of desolation in the scene which is very striking A small village, surrounded by magnificent trees, and separated from the lake by the bund which forms its southern boundary, is now all that remains of human habitation, in a place that must formerly have been the abode of many hundreds of thousands of our fellow creatures. Nor do I see what is to restore it.

There is indeed waste land in abundance ; there is an unlimited supply of water ; but it is difficult to settle a small colony in so wild and isolated a position, and I know not from whence the elements of a large colony are to be drawn, especially when there are other tanks, like Minnery and Kandelly, which combine the same natural advantages with the vicinity of a town, and a port from which, if the home market failed, their produce might be exported. As to small settlements the fate of the villages that lingered on after the removal of the royal residence from Pollinarua shows how difficult it is, without a certain amount of actual physical force represented by numbers, to resist the influence of climate, sickness, and isolation. The cholera or the small-pox sweeps across a district, and the survivors have neither strength nor courage to continue their usual labours. The clearing of the watercourses is neglected; the dams broken down; the jungle allowed to encroach upon the fields that were once cultivated; the paths that separate the village from its neighbours are overgrown; and in a very few years the beasts of the field become the lords of the soil and set the remnant of its human inhabitants at defiance. The tank districts are full of abandoned villages, of which this is the history; and the most lovely country that I have ever seen, rich in all the elements of successful industry, bids fair to become before long the domain of the elephant and the bear, without a single human competitor.

We left Pollinarua on the 17th February, and followed a jungle path for six miles, to Giritelli tank, a considerable sheet of water, which appears to be turned to little or no account. The tank was covered with every variety of birds, who were evidently seldom disturbed, and the bones of an elephant were whitening upon the grass, close to the spot where the track emerges from the forest. He was killed by the vidahn of a neighbouring village, the lands of which had often suffered from his inroads.

The village itself is going rapidly to decay, and contains now only five or six families.

From Giritelle to Minnery (four miles), the path lies for three miles through thick jungle, and for the last mile through paddy fields, watered by a stream which flows constantly from the tank, and would irrigate the whole 1000 amunams of land, said once to have been under cultivation, but now reduced to 30.

In the evening we visited the lake, a much more appropriate name than tank for so large an expanse of water. It is near 21 miles in circumference, and of peculiar shape, forming bays where it receives its principal feeders. The bund is, as usual, of enormous solidity.

There is no visible outlet, at the point from which the stream that supplies the rice grounds issues. Yet it is perennial, and there can be no doubt that the run of the water is regulated by one of those ancient sluices, placed under the bed of the lake, which seem to have answered so admirably the purposes for which they were constructed, though modern engineers cannot explain their action. The embankments are perfect. No symptoms of decay appear anywhere. The supply of water is most abundant, and nothing is wanted but population. From Minnery we went to Kowdelly tank, which is said to have equalled Minnery and Kandelly together in size, but is now in ruins, the waters having burst the bund at a period so distant that what was once the bed of the tank is now a forest abounding in trees of the largest dimensions.

The distance from Minnery was variously stated at from 12 miles to 18 ; I think it 14, having been three and a quarter hours in doing it. The road through the jungle is good, but when it enters the bed of the tank, and passes along the bund, once coated with the stones, which are now scattered in irregular masses, or traverses the old rice grounds, which the lake formerly watered, the riding is difficult, and even dangerous. The ground too had been poached by wild animals when wet, and their tracks were as hard as iron,

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at the time of my visit. It is impossible to imagine anything wilder than the scenery. Herons and bitterns sat like statues on their accustomed perches, as our cavalcade passed, so unaccustomed were they to see or fear man. The tank still retains water in many parts, and the magnificence of the vegetation denotes a soil said to be the best in Ceylon for the growth of rice and cotton, which last production, though indigenous, and of excellent quality, has hardly yet attracted the attention of capitalists.

The district appears to have acquired a character for insalubrity when the Trincomalie road was opened, and few have since ventured to establish themselves in it. The village of Polliancadowille, near which we encamped, is small and poor. The population decreases annually by sickness and emigration.

Kandelly, or Gantellawe, as it is more properly called, is the last of this long series of tanks, which, connected as most of them were by the Ellehara canal, formed what was termed " the sea of Prakrama."

From its vicinity to the Trincomalie road, Kandelly is better known than any of the other tanks which I have enumerated, and needs less description.

It is a noble sheet of water, at least 16 miles in circumference, formed, as is almost universally the case, by a large embankment, uniting two natural hills, and preventing the water which flows into the plain from finding a passage between them.

The distance from Kowdelly is 14 miles, a great part of which consists most unmistakeably of ground formerly used for rice cultivation. For three or four miles the path follows the old post road to Kandy, and for the last four miles before re-entering the high road to Trincomalie, which we did at the 78th milestone from Kandy, we passed along a minor road, cut in a perfectly straight line, until it strikes the main road, three miles to the west of Kandelly resthouse. We rode along the shores of the lake for the last one and a half miles before reaching this.

The embankment is perfect, without breach or flaw of any kind. It is 50 feet high, and 120 feet wide at its base, coated with stone, and overgrown with trees, the roots of which, striking deep into the artificial mound, impart to it additional solidity.

But for all details respecting this interesting tank I am happy to be enabled to refer to a report by Captain Sim, R.E. (prepared at my request, and appended to this minute).* I shall have occasion to advert subsequently to the experiment for which Captain Sim is of opinion that Kandelly presents the most favourable site.

1. Sigiri.
2. Kondruwawe.
3. Ruined Tank near Angoulasse.
4. Dimitelli.
5. Pollinarua or Topari.
6. Giritelle.
7. Minnery.
8. Kowdelly.— (Bund destroyed.)
9. Kandelly, or Gantelawe.
10. Padiwil Colum.

From what I have stated, it appears that within a space of 60 miles, there are distributed no fewer than nine tanks, constructed with great labour, considerable engineering skill, and of such solidity that their embankments seem to defy the hand of time; that, north of these again, about 40 miles, is Padiwil colum, the most gigantic work of all, for the bund, which is in perfect repair, except at the one spot where in the course of ages the waters have forced a passage between it and the natural hills which it united, is 11 miles long, 30 feet broad at the summit, 180 feet the base, and 70 feet high; and that to the westward of Padiwil Colum, again, lie the tank of Anarhadapoora, and the Giants' Tank, the dimensions of which I cannot give, as the work was never completed according to the original design.

Padiwil Colum, great part of which I rode or walked over, was formed by the waters of the rivers Morra oya, and Moonganoo oya confined to the plain by the enormous bund which I have just described. Its construction must have occupied a million of people for 10 or 15 years.

It was completed by Maha Sen, A.D. 66, and the tank when full is said to have irrigated the whole space between the bund and the sea in the direction of lake Kokolai.

A vast breach is now open, the depth of which is said to be unfathomable; and what was once the basin of the tank, is covered with magnificent timber, except in those parts which are still under water during the rainy season. These are overgrown with a coarse rank grass. For miles around there is not a vestige of man, and the temporary buildings erected for our reception had the effect of frightening away all the game in the country, so unaccustomed were the deer and buffaloes who frequent the tank to any intrusion upon their solitude.

The number and size of these artificial lakes sufficiently prove the sense entertained of the value of water as the first element of cultivation in a tropical climate by the former possessors of the soil in Ceylon, and the sacrifices to which a whole people submitted in order to secure this blessing, without which they were conscious that their labours must be of little avail; for no wisdom and no power in the ruler can have forced such efforts, even upon the most passive of oriental nations, without a general persuasion that the work was one of paramount necessity, and that all would participate in its benefits. Hence the veneration in which the names of Maha Sen and Prakrama Bahoo are still held, though causes unknown to us, wars, pestilence, or political revolutions, may have laid waste their capitals, and driven the population from the neighbourhood of their mighty works into the mountains where the Portuguese and the Dutch found them.

Can any use be made of these works by us?

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* See Appendix B., p. 326.

The tanks themselves are perfect in all their essential parts. But where shall we find a population to replace that which has disappeared? For five consecutive days I rode through the most lovely country in the world; but in that country one thing was wanting,—man!

To talk of tank repairs, or of laying out money in any other way than by bringing a fresh population into contact with the treasures which nature has lavished upon the soil, would be uncalled for as well as unprofitable.

Why repair Kowdelly or Padiwil Colum, supposing the attempt to be warranted by the state of the finances, when Kandelly and Minnery are pouring out streams of water that we cannot use, for want of hands to till the soil?

We must therefore colonize, or do nothing; and when I look to the low rate of wages in the northern province, denoting, as it does, a population much too numerous for the field of employment,—when I recollect the annual emigration from the seven korles into Nuwera Kalawiya, for the purpose of obtaining ground on which to raise a crop of koorakan, which the dearth of water, and the gradual decay of the smaller tanks prevent the people from doing at home, I cannot but think that the experiment might safely and prudently be tried.

I am of opinion that the plan proposed by Captain Sim should be fairly tested. It requires no large outlay. The co-operation of the Government agent in the northern province would secure applications for land, upon some arrangement similar to that suggested. Care must be taken to give a clear title to the land thus brought into cultivation, and to make the terms upon which it is to be occupied thoroughly understood.

There is a large Tamil population at Trincomalee which would facilitate the attempt; and if a nucleus were once formed the colony might receive additions from other quarters, and might in the end lead to some larger immigration scheme from the coast of India, when people had become aware of the advantages with which successful industry would be attended.

Should a similar disposition be found in the seven korles, or in any other Singhalese district, a colony, with its headmen, might be located in the neighbourhood of Minnery or Topari, upon similar terms, taking care to keep the Singhalese and the Tamils apart.

The experiment is one in which the course to be taken must be determined by circumstances and time; but if the Legislative Council concur with me in thinking that it would be desirable to make the attempt, I invite it to authorize the expenditure of 1,000*l.* for this purpose, in the estimates for 1857; and I will pledge myself to spare no pains, so far as the Government is concerned, to bring the matter to a satisfactory issue.

Roads.

I come next to the subject of roads, and I find those best acquainted with the eastern province disposed to attribute its backward condition to the state of isolation in which it is placed, by the neglect of the main line of road, intended to unite it with the rest of the island, but which has been for many years impassable for wheel carriages, and is almost impassable for horses during some months of the year.

The first 16 miles, from Kandy to Matelle, and the last 16, from Palampoota to Trincomalie, are the only portions of the road that have ever been completed.

The remaining 81 miles are in an infinitely worse state than when the line was first opened by Sir Edward Barnes, nothing at all having been done, either by ordinance labour, or out of general revenue, to repair the damage annually caused by the waters, which have worn deep gullies across the road, and render the approaches to the Dambool and Naland oyas difficult, if not dangerous, even in the driest season.

I have a very strong impression that within no distant period the importance of keeping open the communication with Trincomalie will make itself much more generally felt than it is at present. The harbour is one of the finest in the world, and it is moreover the only harbour in Ceylon. If steam communication with Australia be re-established, as is to be expected, now that peace is restored, or a double line from Suez be introduced, it is physically impossible that the roadstead of Galle can long suffice for the increasing demands upon it, or that private companies will risk their magnificent vessels in a most insecure anchorage, for the accommodation of a Government which, at the cost of one of them, laid out upon its own roads, might run a mail every 24 hours between Kandy and Trincomalie, and receive its correspondence in Colombo almost as soon as it does at present, the steamers being unable to enter the harbour at Galle after sunset, and consequently, often losing twelve hours in landing their mails.

I admit that the mere chance of this contingency would not justify the outlay of 40,000*l.* or 50,000*l* of public money in remaking and metalling the whole line to Trincomalie, nor is there sufficient traffic without it between the eastern and central provinces to warrant so large an expenditure.

Salt, salt fish, wax, deers' horns, and a few other articles of native produce, are conveyed by tavillams from the coast to the interior, and might be sent in larger quantities, if bandies could be employed. But there is no habitual exchange in bulky articles of food or produce; and I shall therefore limit my proposals to a part of the road

which posesses a distinct character; I mean that between Matelle and Dambool, as far as the point of junction with the great central road to Anaradhapoora and Jaffna.

I have already stated, in my Minute on the northern province, that during nine months of the year this road is passable for a wheel carriage. The worst part of it was that nearest to Dambool, and this is now under repair. It is only between Dambool and Matelle that the communication becomes impracticable.

If this were restored, not absolutely by metalling the thirty-two miles of road, but by levelling it, and opening the side drains, so as to allow a passage for the water, a carriage might pass during the dry season from Galle to Jaffna, while the central province would gain access to the only forests from which it can now obtain a supply of timber (those about Nalande and Dambool), and at the same time a great step would be made in the direction of Trincomalie, should circumstances require that road to be opened.

My wish is in all that we do to work upon a well-considered plan, and with a distinct object.

I am pledged to recommend a vote for 1,500*l.* for continuing the metalled road between Jaffna and the Elephants' pass, from the 24th to the 28th milestone. Four miles more would bring it into contact with the central road, and this I think it would be desirable to convert into the main post road, as it is already the main road for the immigrant coolies on their way to the coffee districts.

I feel confident that we shall be enabled to manage all these things better when they are concentrated; that the maintenance of the resthouses, the care of the coolies, and the transmission of the mails, may be better looked after upon one line of road, than upon two or three, as is the case at present; and if we thus combine many different interests at Dambool it appears to be equally desirable that Dambool should be brought into easier communication with Kandy and Colombo.

I shall propose a vote, therefore, for 1,500*l.* in the estimates for 1857 for the purpose of improving such portion of the road between Matelle, Nalande, and Dambool as the department of Public Works considers it possible to undertake without interfering with works already in progress.

If it be necessary hereafter to go to Trincomalie, we shall be in a better position to do so. If not, we shall have done much to open up the island, by rendering it possible to go from its northern to its southern extremity in a wheeled carriage, and this by simply improving the means at our disposal, without clearing away jungle, or opening any new line of road, things seldom effected in this country without much loss of life and great uncertainty in the expenditure.

Public Works.

I have seen with much pain the state of the government buildings generally in Trincomalie, some of which have been allowed to fall into decay from the want of a proper outlay at the proper time, while others ought never to have been classed or designated as public offices. The kutcherry and the bungalow of the district judge are two examples of this system, which will entail upon the Government a very heavy expenditure during the present year. Of the kutcherry, I can only say that it is a disgrace to any civilized community. I never saw a gaol, or the cells of a police lock-up house, in so bad a condition. Even during the driest season the rafters that support the roof were dripping with moisture, and large bats were flying about at mid-day, in this congenial atmosphere. Yet this is the place where the whole business of the eastern province is conducted, and where the government agent, the assistant agent, and fifteen shroffs and clerks, are expected to pass seven hours out of the twenty four.

I was naturally desirous not to leave public servants in such a situation as this for one day longer than was absolutely necessary, but there were circumstances which rendered an immediate remedy difficult, if not impossible.

Any repair of the present kutcherry is out of the question; the walls, the roof, the flooring are equally rotten.

There is, however, a large space near it, containing the foundations of an extensive range of buildings, formerly the residence of the government agent, but which were allowed to fall down in 1848, and this might be made available, should it be found necessary to reconstruct an entirely new set of government offices.

But I was not without hopes that this outlay might be avoided by transferring the kutcherry to the house now appropriated to the government agent, who might either remain in his present residence, with some additional accommodation, or be provided for elsewhere, should the Admiralty be disposed to sell the residence of the storekeeper upon the esplanade at a reasonable price.

Unfortunately the government agent's house was not at the moment available. The roof, which is a flat one, and of great thickness, having begun to bear so heavily upon the walls and pillars in the centre of the building that there was great risk of its falling in, unless lightened.

As a residence the house was unsafe in its then condition; but Lieutenant Philpots thought that the pressure might be removed by throwing a light tiled roof over the centre of the building, leaving the side apartments unaltered. I directed him to reconsider

this idea, and to give me an estimate of the probable expense of carrying it out, which he has done since my return to Kandy. The estimate amounts to 756*l.* 2*s.* 5½*d.*; and as the work could not be delayed without endangering the whole building, I authorized the immediate expenditure of the money, which must be charged to the supplementary estimate.

Whether the house be occupied as a kutchery or by the government agent, the alteration was indispensable, or the Government would have been forced to hire accommodation for its servants, with a large amount of Crown property upon its hands which is positively unserviceable.

The government agent now proposes to transfer the kutcherry establishment to this building, as soon as completed, and states that 200*l.* or 250*l.* will be sufficient to provide such additions as are required to the house which he now occupies.

This will be included in the estimates for 1857, as will the repairs of the judge's bungalow, of which only one room remains standing. The godowns and sleeping apartments must be entirely rebuilt, both the roof and the walls having fallen in; and I cannot estimate the outlay at less than 600*l.* The courthouse and the gaol are in very tolerable order.

My attention having been called by the Secretary of State to the English burying ground, in which five government agents, and several officers of distinction belonging to both services, are interred, besides many civilians, I saw, with feelings which it is very difficult for me to express, the utter desolation of the spot, the defacing of the monuments, the desecration of the graves, the wholesale plunder of every particle of lead or iron used in their construction, which are the results of the unhappy differences that have prevailed as to the parties who ought to be responsible for the maintenance of the wall and the proper guardianship of the burying ground.

I considered this state of things most discreditable to the Government and to the community. On inquiring into the causes of it, I found that it must be mainly ascribed to the belief entertained by the Government that the burying ground is attached to the church of St. Stephen, and that the trustees of the one are bound to provide for the maintenance of the other.

The Government, relying upon the 14th clause of Ordinance No. 12. of 1846, has refused to provide funds, which it thinks ought to be provided by the trustees of the church; while the trustees state that the church was only built in 1841, partly by Government aid and partly by private subscription, but that the burying ground existed in the time of the Dutch, and was handed over to the Crown as the property of the Dutch Government upon the occupation of Trincomalie by Her Majesty's forces. They add, I believe, with perfect truth, that no title deed for the church itself has been or can be given under the Ordinance, the church being situated within the walls of one of Her Majesty's fortresses, and that the trust, consequently, has ceased to exist, the trustees finding that they had neither funds nor legal powers.

The fees of the burying ground are, moreover, regulated by a Government tariff, wholly inadequate to meet the expenses even of the most economical guardianship, and though there is no want of liberality in the community of Trincomalie, and no indifference to the very painful impression which the state of this public establishment must produce upon the minds both of natives and foreigners, it is not to be expected that men will come forward to do what they conceive that the Government ought to do, unless some clear and intelligible principle be laid down for the avoidance of future difficulties.

Under these circumstances, I considered that I should best carry out the views of the Secretary of State by putting an end at once to the public scandal of the existing state of things, and by making the best arrangement that I could to avoid its recurrence.

I proposed, therefore, to wall in the burying ground immediately, at the expense of Government, and to appoint the government agent for the time being, the commandant of the garrison, and the colonial chaplain, to act as trustees for the whole Christian community of Trincomalie, with power to levy such fees upon burials and monuments as will provide for the costs of maintenance.

Should the fees not suffice for what is required, I have received the strongest assurances that private liberality will supply the deficiency.

It was supposed at the time of my visit that the cost of the wall would not exceed 200*l.*, but this was a rough estimate made by Lieutenant Philpots, without any previous examination of the ground, and for which he cannot justly be held responsible. The actual expense, including the purchase of a small additional piece of land, which was represented by the Government agent and the colonial chaplain to be absolutely necessary, will not fall short of 498*l.* 14*s.* 1*d.*

But, though I regret the necessity of an outlay so far exceeding what I was led to expect in the first instance, I have not felt myself justified upon that account in suspending a work which I am certain that both the Secretary of State and the Legislative Council would have considered as indispensable had they seen, as I did, the scandalous state of things which this outlay will put an end to.

I may add that the arrangement has given general satisfaction, and that the inhabitants of Trincomalie, as will be seen by the annexed papers*, have pledged them-

* See Appendix C., page 329.

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selves by resolutions passed at a public meeting to assume the entire charge of the cemetery in future.

H. G. WARD.

APPENDIX.

A.

Report on the Canal from Ellehara, near Matelle, to Minnery, and thence to Gantalawe, near Trincomalie.

OUR attention having in 1853 been drawn to the remains of an enormous stone bund across the Ambanganga at Ellehara, in the district of Matelle, we resolved on taking the first opportunity of making a close inspection of it, and of tracing the canal which, according to tradition, was directed from that river into the Gantalawe Tank, near Trincomalie. Circumstances prevented our carrying out our intention until lately; and having now completed our exploration of this the most extensive work of irrigation in Ceylon, we are induced to throw the information which we have collected into the form of a report for the information of Government, as it may at some future period prove useful.

It is recorded in the native histories of Ceylon that canals were formed which conveyed the waters of the "Karaganga" to Minnery, and thence to Gantalawe, and these are attributed to King Mahasen, who reigned A.D. 275. Native history also records that Prakrama Bahoo I., who reigned A.D. 1153, diverted the waters of the same "Karaganga" into "the sea of Prakrama." Local tradition assigns the canal at Ellehara to Mahasen, and the bund across the Ambanganga to Prakrama Bahoo. And Major Forbes, in his work on Ceylon, mentions having procured an inscription from a stone pillar, which, at the time he wrote, existed in the ruins of the bund, "signifying that the canal was "completed by the happy, victorious, and illustrious monarch of Ceylon, Prakrama "Bahoo."*

Now, as the Ambanganga is the only stream in that part of the country which bears the name of "Ganga," or which deserves to be described as a "river,"—as the bund at Ellehara is the greatest work upon it, and as we have ascertained, beyond a doubt, that the canal leading from it conveyed its waters to Minnery and thence to Gantalawe,—these facts, supported by the unvarying tradition existing among the natives of almost every village along its route, seem to us satisfactorily to establish the identity of the "Karaganga" with the Ambanganga; and, therefore, to prove that the canals leading from it were the works of Mahasen, who, we are told, "formed the great tank at Min-"naria†, and, by damming up the Karaganga, turned its stream into it;" and "that he cut "the Talawatta Ella canal, by which means he formed 20,000 fields, which he dedicated "to the Denenaka Wihare, whereby the rice grounds got the name of Dantalawe‡ (Gan-"talawe—Kandaly)§." But the inscription mentioned by Major Forbes, as well as local tradition, ascribes the bund to Prakrama Bahoo, whose reign commenced 852 years after the death of Mahasen. History also records, as we mentioned before, that among the many canals cut by him "for the purpose of diverting the rivers into the great tanks," he formed "the Goodaaviree canal, to divert the waters of the Karaganga into the sea of "Prakrama."‖

It seems therefore beyond dispute that the "sea of Prakrama" was in the neighbourhood of Ellehara, and the remains of the bund across the river, and the vast size of the embankment between that place and Kondrowawe, leave on our minds the conviction that it was formed by the enlargement of the works first executed by Mahasen.

We are led to this conclusion by a careful examination of the gigantic embankments, in parts eighty and ninety feet high, and by as careful a study of the adjacent country as our opportunities permitted. When the whole body of the river was diverted from its course, the waters, receding, must have spread themselves over many miles of flat or imperceptibly rising ground, to the foot of the Kondrowawe range of hills; and nine large streams being turned by the embankment, a series of immense lagoons, extending from Ellehara to Kondrowawe, must have been the consequence.

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* Forbes' Eleven Years in Ceylon, vol. II., p. 95; allusion is also made to the inscription at page 33.

† Mahasen is still regarded as the Deity of Minnery; his shrine is there, and is regarded as the most sacred in Ceylon.

‡ දෙන් an offering ලංකා a plain.

§ See Turnour's Epitome of the History of Ceylon, published in the Ceylon Almanac for 1833. Also Mahawanse, p. 237.

‖ See "Turnour's Epitome," and Note No. 1, at end of Report.

Reference to the drawing, No. 2, will show, that, in the first instance, the canal was excavated to a deep pool in the river, and that the bund built by Prakrama Bahoo, probably on the site of the former one by Mahasen, is at a considerable distance below the mouth of the canal, upon a ledge of rock stretching nearly across the river. It is probable, therefore, that Prakrama Bahoo took advantage of the existing works to assist him in carrying out his own project.

The situation of the "sea of Prakrama" has never, hitherto, been satisfactorily ascertained. Major Forbes indeed surmised that the series of lakes formed by this canal might be "the waters to which the vanity of a king gave his own name;" but he adds, "that until this canal shall have been traced through the Kondrowawe hills, the extent "and difficulty of such an undertaking must excite doubts whether it were successfully "accomplished."*

We have so traced it, and have, we think, proved that Major Forbes' surmises are correct. In no other parts of Ceylon are there the remains of so many and so extensive lagoons so closely adjoining each other. In no part of the island is there, as far as we know, one continuous embankment, extending, without intermission, for twenty-four miles, and varying from forty to ninety feet in height.

The "sea" must have ceased at Kondrowawe; for, from the point where the communication branches off to Minnery and Giritella, the reduced proportions of the embankments, and the altered nature of the country, show that canals only extended to Minnery, Gantalawe, and Giritella.

We began on the 6th ultimo, by examining the commencement of the work at Ellehara, and taking the dimensions of the stone bund.

The Ambanganga is formed by the confluence, at or near the village of Ambene, of four or five considerable streams, taking their sources in the south and west parts of Matelle; thence it is called the Ambanganga. A range of hills, commencing from a spur of the Laggalle mountains, extends in a northerly direction to the left or southern bank of the river, nearly opposite the present village of Ellehara. At a point where this range approaches within a distance of 200 yards from the river a large embankment of earth, with stone revetments, commences, and extends for about 130 yards, terminating in a wing-wall, about fifteen feet in height. Here begins the large spill-water, the length of which was probably about ninety yards, and from its extremity ran, at an obtuse angle, the great stone bund; this extended across the stream until it joined an immense earth embankment, with stone revetments, averaging sixty feet in height, which still exists, and leads to the mouth of Mahasen's canal.

The remains of the spill-water measure seventy-six yards in length. This brings us to the edge of the river; and it is evident that it was continued for some twelve or fourteen yards further to the rocky foundation in the bed of the river on which the great stone bund was built. The breadth at the top, at its southern end, is twenty-nine yards; and at the northern end, where it has been carried away, thirty-three. Its height above the level of the water at ordinary seasons is about forty feet; it is built throughout of huge blocks of hewn stone embedded in chunam, which still remains in the interstices. The stones in the interior of the work were carved with figures, and evidently had formed part of a building of an earlier date. This is also observable at Kalawawe† and Balalawewe, works of irrigation in Nuwerakalawia, and also attributed to Prakrama Bahoo, which seems to prove that the larger works of irrigation in Ceylon are of a comparatively modern date.

Great engineering skill is shown in preparing the rock to receive the foundations of the large stone bund across the river. Upon the outer side, these consist of a trench cut into the solid rock, to receive the first layer of masonry. At a distance of twenty-five feet inwards is a continuous row of holes, two feet square, and about three feet apart, and sunk to a depth of about three feet; into these were fitted large stone pillars, the remains of some of which, broken short off, are still to be seen. One of them protrudes above the surface of the rock to the height of about two feet.

Parallel to this, and at a distance of ten feet from it, is another row of smaller holes, into which also pillars were fitted to form the inner edge of the masonry. From the angle in the centre of the bund another row of holes extends, in a semicircular direction, towards the spill-water.

The annexed drawings will better explain what we have thus attempted to describe.

From the northern extremity of the stone bund, and nearly in the same direction, a large earthen embankment, faced with stone revetments, extends as far as the mouth of Mahasen's canal—a distance of nearly half a mile.

The waters of the river, checked by these vast embankments, must have inundated the low lands lying on either side of the river, for a distance of about ten miles; thus forming the largest of that series of lagoons which doubtless bore the name of the "sea of

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* Forbes, p. 33, vol. II. We had arrived at the conclusion, that the series of lakes thus formed was the sea of Prakrama, before seeing Major Forbes' remarks, and were surprised at the coincidence, when at Pollinarua we read the passage which we quote above.

† Dasenkelliya or Dhaator Sena probably formed this tank, A.D. 459, but Prakrama Bahoo is said to have improved and repaired it.

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Prakrama." As a proof that these low lands were so inundated, gigantic koobooks, trees only growing in or near the immediate neighbourhood of water, are now to be found far above the height to which the river overflows its banks.

At first sight it would appear that here the river naturally divides into two channels, the one being very much larger than the other; but on closer inspection we have come to the conclusion, that what appears the smaller branch was, in reality, the mouth of Mahasen's canal, leading into a deep pool in the bed of the river; which, with a bund very much smaller than that of which we have described the remains, would have afforded a sufficient supply of water for the purposes for which it is said to have been formed.

Prakrama Bahoo, however, having conceived the idea of forming his "sea," constructed the bund we have described at a point where he could obtain a good rocky foundation, and could easily connect the high ground on either side of the river. We were led to the conclusion, that what now seems a smaller branch of the river is artificial, and was the excavated mouth of the canal, by the facts of its banks being rocky and precipitous, and very much higher than the land on the south side of the river. This channel, therefore, could not have been formed by the natural course of the water.

At a quarter of a mile from the mouth of the canal the rush of water appears to have breached the bank, through which the stream now flows, and joins the river at some distance lower down. There are here some hewn stones scattered about, which are evidence of the remains of the embankment. From this point, therefore, the bed of the canal is quite dry; a very small stream only, in a slightly different direction, being led to the fields now existing at Ellehara.

From the same spur of the Laggalle mountains, to which we made allusion before, a range of hills extend in a north-easterly direction through Kondrowawe to within half a mile of the Minnerylake. The Ambanganga, having received the waters of several other streams, intersects these mountains at the village of Ambene, and flows down to Ellehara, a distance of about fourteen miles.

To conduct the water of the Ambanganga to Minnery, and to divert the streams falling from this range of hills, this wonderful embankment, which extended, without intermission, for 24 miles, was constructed. Its height, as before mentioned, varies from 40 to 90 feet, but, taking its average at 50 feet, it must have contained more than 3,800,000 cubic yards of earthwork, which, with the masonry, would have cost, at the present rate of labour, not less than 200,000*l*. This only includes the works from Ellehara to Kondrowawe. The range of hills to which we have alluded are at some places at a distance of several miles from the embankment, and the ground intervening between it and their base being flat, or rising with an almost imperceptible slope, was submerged. In other places, the small spurs of the hills approached so near the embankment as to form a series of canals connecting the lagoons, which the receding hills enclosed. Of these lagoons, the largest was that at the stone bund across the river, where the hills form a large amphitheatre; eight others, connected by as many canals, covered the intervening space above the embankment, between Ellehara and Kondrowawe.*

From the point at which the waters of the river have breached the canal, the embankment continues about 50 feet high to the present village of Ellehara. At a distance of about a quarter of a mile from the commencement, advantage has been taken of a flat rock to form a spill-water of about 70 feet wide, with wing walls 15 feet high. This was evidently as a safeguard for the overflow of water in the great lagoon, which, over this spill-water, returned to the river.

Mr. Turnour, in the Ceylon Almanac for 1833, quoting from Mr. Brooke's notes, mentions that "at the commencement of the canal, or about 300 yards from the Ambanganga, "a basin has been cut, about 300 to 400 yards in circumference, said to have been "excavated when the canal was made, and no doubt was originally a harbour for boats "passing up and down." He adds, "It has also had a communication with the canal." We could find no trace of this basin, and think that Mr. Brooke must have mistaken the spill-water which we have described as the communication to which he alludes.

The present village of Ellehara is situated at about two miles from the mouth of the canal; the fields lie below the embankment, and are still cultivated by means of the water of the Ambanganga. Most of the houses, however, are now upon ground formerly part of the site of the great lagoon. A sluice through the embankment still conveys the water to the fields. The name of the village proves that its existence commenced subsequent to the formation of the canal.†

The few houses which yet remain occupied in this once extensive village are wretched to a degree, and from the number of ruined and deserted huts, and traces of sites of former dwellings, there is no doubt that the place was once very flourishing, even when Mr. Brooke passed through it, about 23 years ago: it contained 50 families, which number is now reduced to 10.‡

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* See Note No. 2, at end of Report.

† a canal රරඑඑඵ to turn.

‡ Mr. Brooke erroneously places Ellehara at a distance of only nine miles from Nalande. Its distance, however, is about 19 miles.

On the 7th, leaving our camp at Ellehara, we set out to commence the exploration of the canal towards Kondrowawe. A road traced towards Batticaloa is cut for three miles, at no great distance from the embankment. Two considerable streams, the Kongatoo Oya and Kirandegalle Ella, which were once checked by the embankment, have breached it; the first about half a mile and the second at about two miles from the village of Ellehara. At about a mile and a half from the last breach stands a gigantic tamarind tree, on the top of the embankment. This tree, which measures twenty-six feet two inches in circumference, is called the Orubenda Siembalagaha.* Tradition has it, that boats stopping there on their transit up and down the canal were fastened, and the natives point out some scars near its root which they say were the marks of chains and ropes.† It is worthy of remark that there is no other tree near it at all approaching it in size, and it is evidently a tree of very great age. We have found the traditions regarding the canal so consistent throughout, that we cannot help laying some stress on this legend, for we have the most satisfactory proof, from the size of the embankment, that the line from Kondrowawe to Ellehara was navigable. This tree stands at the end of the second large lagoon, and near it are the foundations of some building on the embankment, which was at this point about 90 feet high.

In consequence of the high lands approaching the embankment, a canal extends for a mile into the next lagoon, which begins at a spot where the Hirettia Oya enters it, and after flowing along the embankment for a short distance, breaches it, and flows down to the river. About half a mile further on it is again breached by the Bakamoonoo Ella. From this point half a mile of canal leads into another large lagoon, along the base of which the embankment extends for two miles, when the natural high land approaches, and forms with it a canal, which extends half a mile to the Kottapitiya Oya which has breached the bank. The lateness of the evening here obliged us to return to Ellehara.

We now found considerable difficulty in obtaining any one who would undertake to guide us to Kondrowawe, for though many had crossed the embankment at different places, no one had ever gone along it; and the distance and difficulties of the route were greatly exaggerated by the people, from their utter ignorance of it, and their fear that no water might be found by the way. The country between Ellehara and Kondrowawe is now an almost impenetrable jungle, nearly destitute of water at this the dry season, with only the site of a deserted village here and there.

Having at length succeeded in obtaining a hunter from Kondrowawe, who undertook to guide us, although he admitted that that part of the country was very imperfectly known to him, we despatched our large tent, horses, and all the baggage we could spare, by the known road, which is a very circuitous one, to Kondrowawe, and on the morning of the 9th, taking with us only a small tent, supplies for two days, and as much water as we could procure gourds to contain, we started to prosecute our trace as long as daylight lasted. We quickly walked over the ground which we had chained the day before, and recommenced our survey from the Kottapitia Oya. While breakfasting, we imprudently sent on our guides and catty men, with a view to expedite our work, and lost some time from having missed our way, the high banks of the oya misleading us, as they closely resembled the embankment which was hidden from us by the thick jungle, but which we afterwards found left the river at a sharp angle. On regaining the embankment, we found that it gradually increased in size till it averaged, for many miles, 80 feet in height. For nearly three miles we found it without a breach, and it was evident, from the absence of jungle immediately above it, that in the wet season a considerable quantity of water collects along it. Here the lagoon must have been very extensive, as the base of the hills is four or five miles from the embankment.

A little further on we found it breached, in two places, by a considerable stream, the Keerewanaheena Ella, which rises in the Kondrowawe range. For about three quarters of a mile a canal connects this lagoon with the adjoining one. Evening was by this time closing in, and as we found that much of our supply of water had been drunk by the coolies to whom it had been intrusted, it became necessary to seek for camping ground at some reasonable distance from a spring. Our guide, who had hunted over this part of the canal, undertook to lead us to a plain about a mile from the Ella, at about two miles from which there was a spring. We then sent our coolies to pitch the tent and bring water, while we continued our survey as long as light permitted. We ceased chaining at a large rock spill-water, and it being too dark to take its dimensions then, we were guided to our halting place.

Early on the 10th we returned to the spill-water. We found it a sheet of smooth rock, about 12 feet in height, 110 feet long, and 110 feet in breadth. At one end of it is a channel cut through the solid rock, 7 feet deep, 6 feet wide, into which sluice gates

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* ඔරඹුඇඹිලගහ "The tamarind tree to which boats are tied."

† If the wounds penetrated the bark of the tree, which they doubtless did, and reached the wood, Mr. Thwaites, the Superintendent of the Royal Botanical Gardens at Peradenia, informs us that their marks would never be effaced; and that, were the bark over the wounds removed, it is very probable, notwithstanding the lapse of time since they were inflicted, that traces of the injury to the wood would be visible.

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evidently fitted, for the irrigation of the fields below.* Wing walls rose at either end, about 20 feet above the level of the spill-water. Below the spill, and outside the large embankment, is another embankment of considerable size, which apparently was for the purpose of protecting the fields immediately below, in great floods, as well as for conveying the water to other parts of the country for the purpose of irrigation. We regret that we had not time to explore this branch, below which, we were informed, lies a vast plain called Patambegaha Ella Damoonoo, where doubtless were formerly the fields irrigated by this sluice.

Opposite to the spill-water, and continuing parallel to the embankment for a considerable distance, we observed, at about 100 feet from it, a small earth bank about six feet high, which may either have been intended to regulate the flow of water over the spill, or to confine it in a canal in the dry season for the purpose of navigation.

At about two miles from the spill-water the lagoon terminates in a canal, cut through rock for a distance of about 200 yards, and about 30 feet in width, at the end of which the embankment is again breached by a stream, now called the Attanakade Ella. Two other breaches occur about a mile further on, caused by the Megolle Ella. One of them probably is at the spot where the sluice for the irrigation of the fields of the now deserted village of Oulpotegame existed.

The high ground here approaches the embankment, and a canal for about three quarters of a mile extends to the site of the deserted village of Talacolepitia, the fields of which were formerly irrigated by the water of Pécolom, a large tank situated about four miles west of the embankment. This village was deserted twenty-five years ago, and a few fields are still cultivated by the people of Kondrowawe, below the great embankment, by the water which escapes from the ruined tank in the rainy season, in a stream called the Radawigi Oya, which has bridged the embankment just beyond Talacolepitiya.

We now approached the plains adjoining Kondrowawe, and, owing to our guide's ignorance of the country and the thickness of the jungle, again wandered from the embankment, which, however, after some hours' search, we regained about a mile and a half from the village of Kondrowawe, where we met our people whom we had sent by the road, and breakfasted. Here there is still a considerably larger tank about the embankment, and at a higher level than the canal. This apparently was fed both by streams falling from the hills, and from the water of Pécolom tank. It is separated from the canal by a large embankment. Having ascertained that the spot at which the canal branched off to Minnery and Giritella was two miles further on, we proceeded thither and there encamped for the night.

Between the village and this point we passed two sluices, long disused, but originally for the purpose of irrigating the numerous fields once existing below the embankment. The first of these penetrated the embankment at a spot where advantage had been taken of a natural rock to form a spill-water, which is singular from the fact of its having two levels. The entire breadth, including both spills, from wing-wall to wing-wall, is 200 feet. The lower spill-water is about eight feet from the present bed of the canal, and measures in breadth about 50 feet; the level of the higher spill-water is about 10 feet higher, and was 150 feet in breadth, and through it are two sluices, nearly at the level of the canal, each two feet square. The length was nearly 200 feet. Large waste plains are described as lying below this water, once, doubtless, rich paddy fields; and the natives described an embankment similar to that which we had observed at the other spill-water. This, however, we had not time to explore.

The second sluice was so dilapidated that we could not distinguish its plan. There was evidently no spill-water here, and the natives could give us no information concerning it.

The direct line of canals and lagoons from Ellehara terminates beyond this sluice in a stone spill-water, at a short distance above which branch off two canals, the one on the right leading to Giritella tank, and that to the left said to lead to Minnery. The spill-water at the extremity of the canal consists of a solid mass of masonry, 112 feet in length and 56 feet in breadth, and, like the one which we noticed before, is at two different elevations, the lower one having a breadth of 20 feet, and the upper of 36 feet. The level of the one is about four feet above that of the other. The masonry of this spill-water is bonded together in a very peculiar manner, combining every possible mode of presenting resistance to the flood of water over it. The inner faces of the embankment here were protected from the action of the water by strong wing-walls.

The distance from the mouth of Mahasen's canal to the spill-water is about 24 miles.

On the morning of the 11th we sent our tents and people direct to Minnery by the native path, and having obtained a guide who undertook to bring us by the canal to that place, we proceeded with our survey, preferring the main branch to Minnery to the smaller one to Giritella. After chaining for one and a half miles, we found that the direction of this canal bore considerably to the westward; and after some hesitation our guides confessed that they had never been there before, and that they now believed that this canal led to Pécolom, instead of to Minnery, the only connection with the latter

* Vide drawing No. 3.

place being, they averred, by means of a sandy stream called the Talawatura, which conveyed the surplus of the great canal over the spill-water.*

As we had sent all our baggage to Minnery, and could form no idea of the distance to Pécolom, we were reluctantly obliged to abandon the exploration of this canal, resolving, however, on the first opportunity, to return and satisfy ourselves as to its direction. We accordingly left the canal by one of its breaches, and following the Talawatura for a considerable distance, reached Minnery lake through the old tank of Katukaliawe.

Fever, brought on by exposure, compelled us to halt here the whole of the following day, and on the 13th we proceeded through Giritella, to visit the ruins at Pollinuara. Here we remained for three days, as we were all suffering more or less from fever, and on the 17th we returned, passing through the village of Minnery, and encamped between the outlets of Gantalawe and Kowdella canals. These outlets were for the escape of the surplus water of the Minnery lake; the lower one, which is called the Mahawāna, conveyed the water to the once enormous tank of Kowdella; the upper, or Agalawana, led the water to the Gantalawe or Kandelly tank.

We chose the latter as it was the principal work, and on the morning of the 18th, under the guidance of an intelligent weddah, we commenced tracing this canal, the course of which, except for the first three miles, has never before been explored. At the weddah village of Rotewewa we found the people most primitive. They have been settled here from a very remote period, and said that once they owned all the adjoining lands. This village and that of Potane, they told us, are presided over by a weddah chief, who bears the title of the Rangdoon, or the "Golden bow." Unfortunately for us, this chief was from home on a shooting expedition, and we had not an opportunity of making his acquaintance, but we saw his quiver, full of arrows, which he had left behind.

Leaving our tent and people here, we proceeded to inspect the great breach in the Kowdella tank, which we were informed was only two miles off; the distance, however, turned out to be at least six, the path lying through part of the bed of the tank, now a vast forest. The walk, fatiguing as it was, well repaid us, for nothing could have given us so good an idea of the immense size of the Kowdella tank as the view of this the principal breach in it. The Gal oya has breached the embankment of Kowdella, where the river had been dammed across, at a point where two natural hills approached its banks; these are not less than 90 feet above the present level of the water. The breadth of the breach cannot be less than 200 feet at the top; the bottom of the breach is now a large and deep pool of water, in which we saw several huge alligators. We had not time to go on to examine the stone bund, which has already been described by Mr. Bertolacci and Dr. Davy.†

We returned to Rotewewa for breakfast, and afterwards followed the canal for three miles further on, where the Gal oya has breached it. At about a quarter of a mile up the river, we found the ruins of a palace, said to have been built by Mahasen, which is now called Nena Morella Maligawe, and encamped in a plain adjoining it.

Having now ascertained that the course of the canal from Minnery to Gantalawe lay at a higher level than the Kowdella tank, and not through it, as supposed by Mr. Turnour,‡ and having found that the difficulties of proceeding along the bed of the canal were so great as to render it probable that cutting our way through the dense jungle would occupy more of our time than we could spare, we struck from this point on the 19th to the high road to Trincomalie, which we reached at Gal oya rest-house.

We continued along the high road towards Gantalawe, and came again upon the canal where it crosses the road near Kitoolouta, at the point noticed by Lieut. Atcheson.

That officer observes, "about four miles from the tank of Dantalawa or Kandalla the road crosses a canal from 20 to 30 feet broad, formed by an immense embankment thrown up on the lower side. This canal is said to be supplied by the waters of the Ambanganga, that river being dammed up and turned into this channel at Elleharra, feeding the tanks of Minnery and Kowdella in its course to Dantalawa." (See Ceylon Almanac for 1833, p. 281.)

The tradition of the origin of this canal was correctly given to Lieut. Atcheson; but he seems to have fallen into the same mistake as Mr. Turnour, in supposing that it passed through Kowdella tank in its way to Gantalawe.

We continued our journey to Kandelly, but found that there the tradition had become very faint and vague, in consequence of a Malabar population having superseded the Singhalese. The following morning we went to the tank, but as our time was too limited to admit of a lengthened search, and in the absence of native information to guide us, we could not ascertain with any degree of certainty the point at which the canal enters it. An old man, almost the only one who appeared to have ever heard of the canal, pointed out to us a sandy river, which, he said, he always understood was the point where the canal came in, and near it we thought we could trace the remains of an embankment.

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* See Note No. 3. at end of Report.

† See Ceylon Almanac for 1833, App. p. 275.

‡ See extract from Turnour, in Mr. Brooke's Journal, p. 57.

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We do not, however, regard our failure at this point as a matter of any importance, as the existence of a range of hills on the western side of the road, extending from the place at which the canal crosses it to the tank, renders it impossible that it could have led any where else than to Kandelly. We were informed by the villagers that an embankment exists, leading from Gantalawe tank to Indiriweve, a tank a short distance to the north.

We now returned to Gal oya, and determined to complete the link between Kondrowawe and Minnery, which we had lost by the misrepresentations of the people of the former place. We proceeded through Seegiri to Pécolom. To judge by its embankment, which is the largest we have seen, Pécolom must have been one of the most considerable tanks in this neighbourhood, inferior only to Minnery and Kowdella. The revetments were continued nearly to the top of its embankment, proving that its depth must have been very great. We ascertained that this tank was filled by the Kiri oya, a large stream, almost deserving the name of a river, which rises in Nuweregalla Kandy, in the north-east part of Matelle, and is divided from the Abanganga by the Kondrowawe hills. It flowed into Pécolom, and thence a part of its surplus water flowed through the Mada horowe or low level sluice, where it has broken the bund, to Minnery; and the remainder escaped through the Goda horowe, or high level sluice towards Kondrowawe, irrigating Meegahawelle, Talacolepitia, and other tracts of land, and eventually falling into the Ellehara canal. The Goda horowe still exists, and the water collected by the ruined embankment in wet weather flows down in a large stream now called the Radawige oya, which, as we before mentioned, breached the canal embankment near Talacolapitiya.

From Pécolom we proceeded to Kondrowawe, a distance of about four miles, and having brought with us guides in whom we could place greater reliance than in our former ones, we commenced, on the 22d, to follow out the canal towards Minnery, which we had formerly been obliged to abandon. Having satisfied ourselves that the canal most probably did lead to Minnery, we started on the morning of the 23d, having sent our horses by the path to the village of Ihekooloowadia, on the banks of that lake, and surveyed the canal in the village tank, which is separated from Minnery by its embankment only. The distance was five miles, and the canal was found to be much smaller and less perfect than any we had previously surveyed. The numerous breaches are to be attributed to the close proximity of the hills. The greater part of it is excavated instead of being embanked. Not far from the point where the canal enters Ihikoolooweve, we found a stone breakwater dividing the stream.* We followed the larger and lower branch, having gone along the other one for a short distance, and found it very indistinct and at a much higher level. We consider that this branch was simply for the escape of surplus water, lest the swollen stream of the canal should destroy the embankment of the tank, which is not far from the point at which it enters it.

We have thus satisfactorily ascertained that the water was conveyed from the Ambanganga near Ellehara to Kondrowawe, and thence into Minnery lake; that another canal led the water of that lake above the level of Kowdella to Gantalawe; thus verifying the native tradition, which we found consistent and unvarying throughout the whole line, until we reached the Malabar country, a distance of not less than 57 miles. Mr. Turnour, in his notes on canals and watercourses, in the Ceylon Almanac for 1833, remarks, that "under the most favourable circumstances, their length is double, and in some instances, four and five times the direct distance. Judging from these peculiarities, and giving a conjectural opinion in each instance of the nature of the country, a canal from Ellehara to Kandelly would exceed one hundred miles." Our survey shows that Mr. Turnour over-estimated the length of the canal.

We have also ascertained that Kowdella was filled by another canal from Minnery. That a canal connected Kondrowawe with Giratelle, we have no moral doubt, although our time was too limited to enable us to explore it. We had it cleared for six miles, and rode along it nearly two miles, and the traditions at Kondrowawe and the neighbourhood of Giritalle entirely coincide. It will be seen that there are still other canals connected with these, which we have not been able to explore; but we trust that the results of this expedition may afford a clue to the unravelling at some future time of the wonderful net-work of canals with which this part of the country was intersected.

"To have traced the line of the Ellahara canal through a mountainous country, alone evinces the knowledge and great exertions of the natives of a former date."†

Had Mr. Brooke been in possession of the information which we have since obtained, the foregoing remarks would have told with tenfold force, for not merely did the projectors of this canal display profound engineering skill in completing the work, but they formed and carried into effect the still more wonderful conception of uniting a portion of the waters of the Kiri oya, a river flowing on the opposite side of a high range of hills, with those of the Ambanganga at Kondrowawe, thence distributing them by minor canals throught the country, and eventually reuniting the waters of the Kira oya in the Minnery lake.

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* Vide drawing No. 4, figure 2.

† Brooke's Report, p. 61.

From our observations during the survey, we think it probable that the face of the country was at that time comparatively free from jungle, and that therefore the difficulty of taking accurate levels was not then nearly so great as it would be at present. It seems, however, probable, from the growth of the forest in the bed of the canal, that many centuries have elapsed since it fell into disrepair.

In contemplating the grand conception of the projectors of these works,—the economy of labour in availing themselves of the natural features of the country, and thus securing such great results by the construction of a single embankment,—the wisdom displayed in diverting a large river from its profitless course, and thus diffusing wealth and prosperity through a previously barren waste, and the forethought in turning to account the drainage of the vast expanse of country through which the canal passes,—cannot fail to excite wonder and admiration.

It is melancholy to regard the present altered condition of a country once brought by so much skill and labour to a state of perfect fertility. The Ambanganga now rolls on in its former unprofitable course. The streams, once checked and diverted into numberless tanks, flow through the breaches of the embankment, and are lost in the forest; and the whole country has become again a desolate and unhealthy jungle. Even at this, the most healthy season of the year, out of about 40 people who accompanied us, only seven have escaped fever and dysentery.

The population of the few remaining villages is annually decreasing. Between Ellehara and Kondrowawe we passed near five villages recently deserted, and many places were pointed out to us as the sites of villages abandoned within the last century. Some idea may be formed of the depopulated state of the country by the fact, that in a distance of 24 miles there is not one inhabited village, although we passed some fields which are still occasionally cultivated by the people of either Ellehara or Kondrowawe.

The excellent state of repair in which we found the embankment from Ellehara to Kondrowawe suggests to us the feasibility of restoring these works to their former state; but we do not think that any benefit would arise from the repair of the canal from Kondrowawe to Minnery, as the waste water would naturally fall over the spill-water into the Talawatura, and so into that lake, and the canal which we traced, can only have been formed in order to complete the line of navigation.

We are not in a position to speak with any degree of certainty as to the practicability or otherwise of repairing the line from Minnery to Gantalawe.

To revert to the first part of the work:—The dam across the Ambanganga could easily be rebuilt, and the repair of the fourteen important breaches which occur in the entire line of embankment present no serious engineering difficulties. A natural bed of rock having in every instance been selected for the spill-waters, their restoration would be comparatively easy. To effect these repairs, a large force of men would be necessary, as operations could only be carried on for about three and a half months in each year, owing to the floods during the rainy season. A great obstacle, too, would be found in the difficulty of obtaining a sufficient supply of water for the workmen.

It would be useless, however, to attempt these repairs, unless Government were prepared to import population, on an extensive scale, for the cultivation of the lands which would be made available by the vast supply of water which would then be at command. But this does not seem an insuperable obstacle, when we take into consideration the over-populated state of parts of the south of India, which is such that in one of the 20 provinces of the Madras presidency alone a few years back no less than 200,000 people died from famine in one year; and we believe we are correct in stating, that last year the Government was compelled to support 100,000 people to prevent them from meeting the same fate.

Before entering the idea of repairing these works, a trigonometrical survey of that part of the island would be indispensable, in order to ascertain what the effect of the accumulation of so large a body of water would be upon the adjacent country; and for this great natural facilities exist, in consequence of the numerous isolated hills with which the neighbourhood is studded. We have ascended several of these isolated points, and examined the country, with a view of ascertaining the feasibility of a thoroughly organized system of triangulation. (Note, No. 4.)

We originally planned this expedition for our own satisfaction; but finding that its results have so greatly exceeded our expectations, we have resolved to communicate them to Government, hoping that they may prove not devoid of interest.

ALEX. YOUNG ADAMS.
JOHN F. CHURCHILL, C. E.
J. BAILEY.

Sept. 19, 1855.

Notes referred to in the foregoing Report.

No. 1, page 316.

Vide Turnour's notes, published in the Ceylon Almanac 1833, on canals and water-courses:—"The ambition and vanity of that sovereign (Prakrama Bahoo) made him change their names, giving them the appellations of the great rivers of Dambadiva," [the continent of India.] For example, the Goodaavairee canal, from the river Godavery in India.

"At a late meeting of the Society of Arts, Colonel Cotton, so well known as an advocate for the improvent of public works in India, contends, perhaps with a bias in favour of his own opinion, "that our Indian possessions would be more benefited by canals for irrigation and navigation than by great trunk lines of railways. Without a proper supply of water

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the people are always liable to famines, and the marvellous fertility of the country remains undeveloped." He "proposes to improve rivers, to clear out the old canals which have become choked up by long neglect. The region watered by the Godevery alone would produce more cotton than we want."

No. 2, page 318.

See Turnour's notes, Almanac for 183, page 277:—"Before I make any extracts from that gentleman's interesting report, I give the following literal translation from the Mahawanse, which contains an account of the principal canals in the reign of Prackrama, in the twelfth century, when they were brought to the highest state of perfection. The ambition and vanity of that sovereign made him change their names, giving them the appellations of the great rivers of Dambadiva, and calling the lake he formed after himself, "The sea of Prakrama." The king (Prakrama) formed the deep canal called the Makara ganga, which flowed from the Makara outlet of the sea of Prakrama; from the same sea, the great canal, Haima Wattee, flowing to the Maha-Maigee-Wame. From the outlet called Samanmal, the canal distinguished by the name of Neela Wapane; flowing from the outlet called the Keela Kara Oodyaane, the Salalawatte canal; flowing from the outlet celebrated under the name of Waitra Watee, the Waitra Watee great canal; from the southern outlet, the Toongha badra canal; flowing from the Mangala outlet, the Mangala Ganga canal; flowing from the eastern outlet, the Champua canal; flowing from the same sea to the Poornawardhana tank, the Saraswastee canal; flowing westward of that (Saraswastee) canal, the Waimawattee canal."

"It is nowhere specifically stated in the historical records that any of these canals were navigable, but it is the general opinion of the natives, both of the learned and of those residing in the neigbbourhood of these works, who have derived the information entirely from tradition, that the principal canals which received the names of rivers were navigable for canoes as far as Ellehara on the Ambanganga. The sea of Prackrama with its many outlets as yet unknown or at least unnoticed. Whenever it is discovered it will probably be found, like the bed of the Kalawawe tank, a forest in no respect differing from the rest of the wilderness in which it is situated."

The survey annexed to this report will show, that one immense embankment extending for upwards of 24 miles forms a series of nine lagoons, connected with each other by nine canals. If Prakrama did change the names of existing canals (for if they had not existed in some degree how could he have changed their names, which, we have Mr. Turnour's authority for stating his ambition and vanity induced him to do), this alone would account for the difficulty of identifying the "sea," and seems to confirm the position which we have taken, that Prackrama Bahoo only enlarged and improved upon Mahasen's previous work.

Our inspection of the canal proves that not only was it navigable for canoes, but for vessels of considerable burden; and in all the villages through which we passed we found this tradition existing. The tamarind tree, alluded to at page 11, is a remarkable proof of its existence at Ellehera, and the people who pointed out to us the ruins of Mahasen's palace, near the Galoya, on the banks of the canal beyond Minnery, a distance of about 40 miles from Ellehara, described it as his halting place in his voyages up and down the canal.

No. 3, page 321.

Vide Turnour's Epitome of the History of Ceylon.

Mahasen, A.D. 275. Bud: 818.—"He also formed 16 other great tanks, and cut the Talawattu Ella canal, by which means he formed 20,000 fields, which he dedicated to the Denanakka Wihare, whence the rice grounds got the name of Dantalawe (Gantalawe or Kandelly)" Also vide report, page .

We have now ascertained that a canal did exist from Kondrowaw, which conveyed the waters of the Ambanganga into Minnery, whence they were led to Gantalawe. The water which now escapes through the breaches of this canal as well as that which falls over the spill-water at Kondrowawe meet and form a stream which now falls into Minnery. This bears the unusual name of Tallawatura. It is not fair to assume that this name is but a corruption of Tallawattu Ella.

No. 4, page 323.

If the repairs were effected, a large body of water would flow over the Kondrowawe spill-water into Minnery; this would find its outlet by the low level escape channel or Mahawana, and flow into Kowdella. Thence we think the water would escape by the large breach (Report, p.) into the Kowdelle Aar, which is said to join the Mahawellaganga near the point at which the Virgil Aar strikes off. There is no doubt that this stream enters the Mahawellaganga, and should it prove that its junction is below the point at which the Virgil Aar strikes off, the addition of this large body of water to the stream might result in opening the navigation of the Mahawellaganga; an object which, in 1832, occupied the attention of Government. (Vide Brooke's Journal, p. 29.)

No. 5.

We annex a plan of the sluice of Tohawewe, for it is more perfect in its details than almost any of the many ancient sluices we have examined.

As the plan shows, it is much dilapidated, and is out of repair, but its plan is very clearly discernible.

The use of the well, or වරාය-ළිඳ as it is called, has puzzled many people. Here we have the sluice gates quite distinct from it, whereas in some there are grooves for sluice gates within the well. It is probable the well served as an entrance to the sluice, for the purpose of cleaning it, and removing roots, pieces of wood or other obstructions. It is true that a man might enter the sluice from the outside for that purpose; but without the well he would be in darkness; and it is only in the embankments of large tanks that the well is found. Besides, in the event of the sluice gates getting out of order, supplementary gates could be put to the sluice in the well, while they were being repaired.

The well at Topawewe is not a very large one of the kind.

B.

Report on the Kandelly Tank by Captain Sim, Royal Engineer.

(No. 36.) Royal Engineer's Office, Kandy,

Sir, 22d April 1856.

I have the honour to acquaint you, that on the 20th June 1855 I addressed a report to his Excellency the Governor concerning the Kandelly tank, and its probable capabilities for the purposes of irrigation. The report was necessarily conjectural, as I was not in a position to obtain precise information, but having in February last had the honour of accompanying his Excellency to the spot, and since received his instructions to make a detailed investigation of the subject, I beg now to lay before you the opinion I have been enabled to form.

As, according to our regulations, it will be requisite for you to transmit a copy of this letter to Sir J. Burgoyne, the inspector general of fortifications, I trust I shall be excused if I advert more fully to the general question of the tanks than I should have done had I to address the Colonial Government alone.

Throughout the northern and eastern provinces of Ceylon are to be found very many of these tanks or artificial reservoirs of water formed by the construction of a dam or bund across the gorge of a valley, and fed by the drainage of the surrounding districts. Some, such as Minnery and Kandelly, are beautiful sheets of water, at times from 15 to 20 square miles each in area; others contain but little water; while the majority, broken through at the bund and thoroughly drained, appear as plains of grass in the midst of the forest.

The value of water so stored up in a tropical country is incalculable. That the ancient inhabitants of the island were aware of this it is only necessary to contemplate the remains of the great works they executed for the purpose. Without a supply of water

at the proper season the crop of paddy or rice fails, and famine ensues, followed by the utter abandonment of villages and districts. With the tanks in order, prosperity and no slight degree of civilization prevailed among the Singhalese; but with the means of irrigation and agriculture neglected, the country has become desolate and unhealthy, while the natives have gradually fallen into their present state of helplessness and degeneration.

In my letter of June, I alluded to the flourishing state of Tanjore, and the vast sum of half a million paid by Ceylon annually for grain, principally to that country. With an expenditure on works of irrigation of 4,000*l.* per annum for 50 years, that district has so prospered that the population has doubled, and the revenue risen from 300,000*l.* to 500,000*l.*, while the saleable value of the land is now equal to four millions. Had half the money spent on such works in Tanjore been spent in Ceylon instead, in keeping in repair those already existing here, this island would probably have exported, over and above its own wants, as much grain as it now depends on other countries to supply.

However fully recognized may be the importance of the tanks, it is not within reason to expect that the Government could at once plunge into any costly scheme for their restoration. Yet, to overlook them altogether, to cast aside all consideration of those that even now might be turned to profitable account, would be equally injudicious. An experiment on a small and inexpensive scale might surely first be tried before the subject is entirely rejected; if successful it could be repeated; if a failure, but little would be risked.

Of all the tanks Kandelly offers the most advantages for such an experiment. Presenting to view an area of about 15 square miles in the rainy season, and never less than three in the driest, it is enclosed by hills of moderate elevation covered with forest, a slope of grass extending from the border of trees to the edge of the water.

The artificial bund by which it is retained is a mile and a quarter in length, about 50 feet in height, with a base of from 150 to 200 feet. Its inner side is faced the whole way with loose boulders to protect the embankment from the action of the water. Two stone sluices or aqueducts at different sites and levels, each with two watercourses, separated from one another by a stone partition, are constructed underneath the bund, and the streams they supply, uniting at a short distance, flow for 12 miles into Tamblegam Bay, which is close to the harbour of Trincomalie. The high road to that port from Kandy runs by Kandelly, rendering the tank easily accessible; by Tamblegam Bay it is 21 miles, by the high road 25, from Trincomalie. With the exception of the sluices, the bund may be pronounced in a perfect state. The immense stones that formed the upper sluice have fallen in, nevertheless the water percolates through them, and affords an ample stream for the greater part of the year, but in the dry season it sinks below the level of the outlet.

The lower sluice is about 12 feet below the surface of the water, when the upper one ceases to run. It has never been uncovered, and on the whole may be said to be in order, excepting that part of the water escapes out of the side close to the lower end of the watercourse. The stream is always full, however, and the sluice no doubt will perform its part for many years to come.

There are two other sources of contribution to the main Tamblegam stream or river, one proceeding from the small tank of Winderasen, two miles to the north of Kandelly, and about three square miles in extent, which affords for more than half the year no inconsiderable supply, and the other from the spill-water or waste weir of Kandelly, whenever the water rises excessively in the height of the rainy season.

But the reason, above all, why Kandelly offers greater advantages than any other tank is, that whereas population is wanting in the vicinity of almost all, large paddy fields worked by a considerable number of natives are to be found on the banks of the Tamblegam river. The only experiment, therefore, needed is the improvement and extension of what now exists as a nucleus.

There are two settlements at present earning their maintenance by the help of the water of the tank; Kandelly village is close to the bank, and Tamblegam village is situated on the bay of that name. The former is but 25 ammunams or 50 acres in extent, with about 30 families, and is almost wholly private property. The latter is 2,500 ammunams or 5,000 acres, all cleared and ready for planting, with a rich soil returning fifteen-fold, and the population is between 300 and 400 families. More than one-tenth of the area is scarcely ever under cultivation at the same time. Yet with these fine fields close at hand Trincomalie has been known to be half starved at times for want of rice. On one occasion within the last two years, when there was a great deficiency in the town, the authorities proceeded out of necessity to seize by force all the grain to be found in the neighbouring villages, giving, however, ample remuneration to the owners.

The point to which I would beg particular attention is, that out of these 2,500 ammunams, 1,000 are declared by the wannia to be the property of the Crown. At one time or another they have all been cultivated, though now they are rarely touched. If offered for sale, I am assured the land would not fetch 15*s.* per acre, even if purchasers could be found to invest, the population being too scanty for an increase of cultivation. But I am persuaded, that if the Government would undertake to divide the area into allotments of two ammunams each, which is about the extent that one man and his family will be

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able to work, allow them to be held for the three succeeding years after the first (which should be rent-free) on the small tax of a tithe of the produce, and at the expiration of that period sell them on regular titles, with the right of pre-emption to the then occupants, no difficulty will be experienced in obtaining the necessary amount of population. Should it, however, be found that the people of these parts, reduced as they are to the extreme of poverty, are not in a position to avail themselves of such an offer on the part of Government, being without the means of purchasing buffaloes or implements of husbandry, or of providing themselves with food during the first year of occupation, I would respectfully suggest the proposition that advances of 1,350*l.* confined to 100 men or families might be made for these purposes, to be repaid to Government in four years, in the manner detailed in Appendix.

If this scheme were to answer, a second batch of 100 might be in like manner accommodated, till the whole 1,000 ammunams, sustaining 500 families, were under cultivation.

No outlay beyond the advances would be required, for the bund and sluices of the tank need no repair. Sufficient water flows at present from them for the irrigation of 1,250 ammunams, allowing, according to Colonel Cotton's estimate, 7,500 cubic yards for the irrigation of each acre, and taking the tank at its smallest extent of about three square miles, with an average available depth of six feet.

The only requirement is the clearing of the jungle over the sluices, and this should be done forthwith, whatever the future intentions of Government may be with regard to Kandelly. Nothing but the gradual expansion of the roots of the trees, aided by the force of running water, could have availed to displace the huge stones of the sluice. Those which capped the lower ends of the watercourses are, from their dimensions, nearly six tons each in weight, one is split and the other thrown down.

Looking beyond the time when these Crown fields may be brought into cultivation, in the manner described, there is no reason why nearly the whole of the land bordering on the Tamblegam river should not ultimately be laid out, sold, and turned to similar account, to the extent of half a mile on each side, and for the whole distance from the tank to Tamblegam, constituting an area of between 3,000 and 4,000 ammunams. In the event, however, of Government considering it worth while, at any future period, to carry this idea into practice, it will be essential to husband the supply of water in the tank and regulate its discharge. Since more than treble the quantity would then be required, none should be permitted, as now, to run to waste in the wet season. But, for this purpose, new sluices would be necessary. The old sluices are defective, and to repair them would be expensive and troublesome in the extreme. The very removal or shifting of the enormous stones would be of itself a work of the severest labour and considerable time. I should, therefore, be disposed to recommend the adoption of new sites for the sluices, allowing, till their completion, those now in operation to perform what service they could. The coffer dams would involve less trouble in their construction, and instead of stone watercourses, it would be preferable to substitute large cast iron pipes of about three feet diameter. Such might be laid without difficulty, and the trees would not injure them. They should be furnished with sluice doors at each end, and a competent person should be appointed to have them in charge.

I cannot conclude this letter without stating that I was accompanied at Kandally and Tamblegam by Mr. Birch, without whose intelligent aid and knowledge of the country and language I should have been at a loss to pursue any inquiry into the subject of this report.

I have, &c.
CHAS. SIM,
Capt. Royal Engineers.

The Commanding Royal Engineer,
Colombo.

APPENDIX.

Advances to be made by Government.

	£
Food for 100 families for one year at six ammunams each, being at the rate of 12 bushels for four people = 600 ammunams @ 15*s.*	450
100 pairs of buffaloes at 6*l.* per pair	600
200 ammunams of seed paddy @ 15*s.*	150
Cost of laying out the allotments, implements, &c.	150
	£1,350

Recoveries.

		Amount:
First year—nothing		
Second year—One-tenth of 30 ammunams		3
Buffaloe hire		2
Repayment of one-third grain advanced, with interest of 50 per cent., which is the custom of the country, say		3
		8
Third year	Do.	8
Fourth year	Do.	8
		24 @ 15*s.* = £18 × 100 = 1,800

By the fourth year Government would be repaid the grain advanced, as well as the cost of the buffaloes. The margin of 450*l.* will be ample to cover all contingencies, such as the death of buffaloes, deficiency of crop as estimated, &c.

Probable income to settlers from two ammunams.

First year	It is supposed the ammunam will produce 7½ fold only, 2 ammunams will therefore return 15 ams. @ 15*s.*			£11 5 0
		Am:		
Second year	2 ammunams will return	30		
	Deduct for Government	8		
	for seed paddy next year	2		
		10		
		20	ammunams @ 15*s.*	15 0 0
Third year and Fourth year	Do.			Do.

C.

At a meeting held at the kutcherry, Trincomalie, on Monday, 25th February 1856.

Present:

W. Morris, esq.	Mr. De Vos.
Rev. S. O. Glenie.	Mr. Colomb.
Lieut.-Col. Tranchell.	Mr. Gibson.
Lieut.-Col. Cochrane.	Mr. Buttery.
Captain Maude, R.A.	Mr. Meerwald.
Captain Tranchell, C.R.R.	Mr. Holgate.
Lieut.-Col. Reyne, C.R.R.	J. W. Birch, esq.
Lieut. Fielding, C.R.R.	E. H. Smedley, esq.
Mr. Redlich.	W. Halliley, esq.

Proposed by Mr. Glenie.—Seconded by Mr. Tranchell.

I.—That this meeting, being satisfied that the burial ground of Trincomalie is Government property, is of opinion that it should be placed in charge of the Government agent, the commandant, and the colonial chaplain for the time being, in conformity with the suggestions of his Excellency the Governor, to be held in trust as a burial ground for the protestant inhabitants of the place, on the same footing as the burial ground on the Galle Face in Colombo is held.

Carried unanimously.

Proposed by Colonel Cochrane.—Seconded by Mr. Birch.

II.—That this meeting accepts with much thankfulness his Excellency the Governor's proposal, as conveyed to them by the Government agent, of permanently enclosing the burial ground with a substantial wall, or in such other way as may be considered expedient; but begs respectfully to record their opinion, that a wall would be most desirable, as more easily erected and less liable to injury than any other style of enclosure.

Carried unanimously.

Proposed by Captain Tranchell.—Seconded by Mr. Redlich.

III.—That this meeting pledge themselves to raise, by donations and subscriptions, a sufficient sum, to form a reserve fund, for the up-keep and improvement of the burial ground (not including, however, the salary of any sexton or official*), which shall be placed at the disposal of the trustees, who shall deposit annually not less than two thirds of the amount thus raised in the savings' bank, for the up-keep of the enclosure only.

Carried unanimously.

Proposed by Colonel Reyne.—Seconded by Mr. Smedley.

IV.—That the three proposed trustees, with Colonel Cochrane and Mr. Gibson, be requested to wait on his Excellency the Governor, and, in conveying to him the above resolutions, express to his Excellency the respectful prayer of this meeting, that the work be commenced as soon as possible.

Carried unanimously.

(Signed) W. Morris,
Chairman.

(True copy.)

Enclosure 7 in No. 35. Encl. 7. in No. 35.

SECOND MINUTE ON THE EASTERN PROVINCE.

I wish to lay before the Councils the results of the only tour of inspection that my health has permitted me to make during the present year.

The most important of these results have already been made public by the Minute on the Batticaloa Irrigation Works, which appeared in the Gazette of the 7th March. But there are other matters of no small interest to the community, upon which it is my duty to speak plainly, since nothing but a knowledge of the evil can render practicable those remedies which it is the duty of the Government and the Legislature to apply.

* Such salaries will be paid by fees.

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I left Kandy on the 2d of February, taking the route to Newera Ellia by Maturatte, which I had not previously seen. It is needless to describe a district so familiar to many, although no Governor has visited it since Sir Edward Barnes. The road from the Horragam oya to the Maha oya is due to the wise liberality of De Soysa, modliar, the fortunate purchaser, at the upset price of uncleared land, of a coffee estate, dating from the time of the Kandyan kings, and now producing 4,000*l.* a year. Had the Survey Department been properly organized, a property of this description could hardly have been alienated without bringing its full value into the treasury ; nor can I understand how it was allowed to be so, since many of the earliest coffee plantations were supplied with cuttings from this very estate.

De Soysa's road has now become a public road, and the provincial committee is extending it from the Maha oya to the gap or pass which leads into the valley of Maturatte, and down to the small native bridge that crosses the Bilhool oya, about a mile and a half below the fort. The 500*l.* voted last session will go in aid of this work, and cannot be more usefully employed ; for the ford below the fort, inconvenient at all times, is dangerous, if not impassable, during many months of the year ; while the district is rising every day in importance, from the number of estates already opened, and the excellence of a large belt of unsold land, running parallel with Mr. Robertson's coffee plantation, the superior quality of which is admitted by the best judges, though the sale has been impeded hitherto by unsettled native claims. I understand those claims to be wholly untenable, chena cultivation having been abandoned for more than forty years ; and though it is desirable that sufficient portions of jungle should be reserved for the use of the large native villages that border the valley, I feel satisfied that the Government agent may accomplish this, without excluding coffee from that portion of the forest which appears to be peculiarly adapted to its growth.

I know no part of the island in which the two great branches of Ceylon agriculture may be seen in such close juxtaposition as at Maturatte. The valley, extended by artificial terraces up every ravine down which water can be made to pass on its way to the river below, presents a vast expanse of green, reaching to the very crest of the surrounding hills ; while, wherever paddy cultivation ceases, coffee cultivation begins. In the immediate vicinity of the villages there are gardens in which onions and potatoes grow luxuriantly ; and I had the satisfaction of hearing the planters bear uniform testimony to the conduct of their Kandian neighbours, who appear to be a peaceable, thriving, and industrious race, where not contaminated by low country Singhalese—the outcasts, generally, of their native districts—or forced into brawls by coolies belonging to the estates. I was much struck myself by their manner and appearance ;—the wonderful ingenuity with which they have turned the smallest supply of water to account,—their ready appreciation of the advantages which the district will derive from the opening out of the country,—and with the justice and simplicity of their views, under the novel circumstances in which they are placed. For Maturatte, instead of being one of the most secluded spots in the island, is rapidly becoming the centre of an important district. The transfer of the court from Newera Ellia to the fort, where I have authorized the erection of a small court house and bungalow,—the prospect of a bandy road to Kandy, which must be steadily kept in view,—the establishment of a post office and a police station,—the bazaar, which is growing up on the site of the old fortifications,—the opening, consecutively, of twelve new estates, with every appearance of adding largely to that number, so soon as the surveyor-general is enabled to bring fresh land into the market,—and the progress already made in tracing the road into Ouvah, by the Elephant Plains, which will make this the shortest route to Kandy for the coffee from the Badulla and Oode-Pusilawa estates,—all these are circumstances that must materially influence the prospects of Maturatte, and ensure its rapid progress in cultivation and wealth.

No greater mistake can be committed than to suppose that in facilitating this progress the Government is consulting private, not public interests.

Public prosperity is but the result of the aggregate prosperity of all the great interests that compose society.

The planter does his part, by turning the jungle into cultivated land, and connecting his clearing with the main road of the district to which it belongs. But that main road is a public road ; at least it becomes so, from the moment that the district contributes its quota to the commercial movement from which so large a portion of the revenue is derived. It may be difficult to define the precise limits of public and private responsibility. Men who want help from the Government must be ready to do their part in the work proposed. But the Government should also be liberal in its aid, for nothing can be clearer than the fact that in districts like Maturatte there are large Government interests, as well as native and planting interests, at stake.

The Crown has still a considerable amount of land to sell. That land will not be bought unless a fair supply of labour can be secured ; and it is well ascertained that coolies will not engage themselves upon estates where they are obliged to carry coffee from any distance to Kandy, and to bring back the rice for their own consumption.

To sell, therefore, we must improve. Roads and bridges are as necessary as surveys to the profitable disposal of land. And my conviction is, that, for many years to come, in the present position of Ceylon, the most certain mode of increasing the revenue of the

island, is a judicious liberality in the use of the means which it has. The customs are the gauge of what is practicable and what is right. So long as their increase corresponds with the increasing expenditure, the Government is paid, indirectly, for every shilling it lays out.

With these views, I have urged upon the surveyor-general the immediate extension of his operations in the Maturatte district, with a view of dividing the land in the vicinity of the fort into small building lots, and of bringing into the market, as soon as possible, some of the more valuable portion of the coffee land above it. I have also made a small grant of 80*l.* for improving the communications with Newera Ellia, from whence the estates draw many of their supplies; and, so soon as the road from the Maha oya is brought down to the bridge over the Bilhool oya, I shall propose to substitute an iron lattice bridge, should those now on their way out to the colony be found to answer, for the small and inconvenient structure which, though repaired by the provincial committee, was originally due to the liberality of the father of the present koralle of Wellegiriya, aided by a Kandian priest.

Road from Maturatte to Badulla.

From Maturatte I proceeded to Newera Ellia and Badulla. The works between these two places, to which the Legislative Council has appropriated 7,000*l.* in this and the ensuing year, had not at that time commenced, the pioneer detachment having only reached its lines the day before I passed. The road was indescribably bad, with the exception of two miles above and five below Wilson's Bungalow, which were partially repaired last year, and the six last miles into Badulla. It is not merely the want of metalling, but the extreme narrowness of the trace, bordering, as it does, for many miles, upon an almost precipitous descent, that makes this route difficult and even dangerous for wheel carriages. Another year or two of neglect would have left it no existence, except in the maps; and the Badulla planters would have been shut out from all share in the advantages which they ought to derive from the large expenditure on the Rambodde and Gampolle road, which is now really superb. The work done since September 1855 upon the Rambodde pass reflects the highest credit upon Captain Wilkinson and Mr. Rehe, whose labours have transformed what was then an almost impassable track, into a highway which may challenge comparison with anything that is to be seen, not merely in India, but in England, although its maintenance will always be difficult and costly, from the long duration and violence of the rains.

I look forward to a similar change on the Badulla side, in the course of another twelvemonth. Mr. Hall has very properly, begun his work between Dickwelle and Etampittia, where the difficulties are greatest, and has already made considerable progress in widening the narrowest parts, by blasting rocks, and cutting away overhanging banks. The new bridge at Dickwelle will be completed in July, and promises to be a handsome and durable structure. It is not proposed to do anything to the road between Wilson's Bungalow and Newera Ellia during the present year, except some minor repairs, (filling up holes, &c.,) which might as well be dispensed with, since nothing short of entire reconstruction will do any good, the difficulty of procuring gravel having led to a practice in past years, of using earth and kabouk, which the first fall of rain turns into mud. The road, therefore, though passable in fine weather, is worse in bad than any road I know in Ceylon pretending to be a high road, excepting parts of that between Kurnegalle and the Maha oya, of which the planters in that district have long complained.

The Council will I feel sure be anxious to afford relief in both cases, so soon as sufficient strength can be brought to bear upon them by the Department of Public Works.

A large halting place for bandies, on entering the plain of Newera Ellia from the Badulla side, and another at the toll-bar on the Rambodde pass, have just been completed; and as nothing tends so much to damage the road as the constant standing of carts in the rainy season upon particular spots, it is my intention to proclaim this section of the road (from the 45th milestone to the 51st) under the ordinance of last session, as I understand that its wording admits of this construction.

Route from Badulla to Batticaloa.

From Badulla to the Batticoloa boundary, my route lay through Passera, Bibili, Nilgalle, and Pattepolle Aar, to the Namool oya, where the eastern province begins. All that nature can do to make a country attractive, by the most beautiful combinations of mountains, forests, rivers, fertile valleys, and rich grazing grounds upon the hills, is to be found scattered with a profuse hand over this space of about 70 miles, which comprises a portion of what is called the park. But with the exception of some paddy cultivation in the low grounds, and some attention to the roads, especially as we approached the Wellasse boundary, which, considering the scantiness of the population, is highly creditable to the activity of Godegedera Ratamahatmeya, there was little to indicate the presence of man; nor have I any improvements to suggest, with the exception of certain tank repairs, not of a large or expensive kind, which the assistant government agent recommends.

From Namool oya we proceeded to Condawattewaan, which, with the villoos of Ambare and Ericamam, may be regarded as the first link in that chain of irrigation works to examine which was my principal object in taking so unusual a route.

The nature and peculiarities of those works, the possibility of restoring them with advantage to the people and the Crown, by a very moderate outlay, the social and financial results that may be anticipated from this undertaking, will be found fully developed in the papers that I have directed to be laid upon the table with this minute. These comprise—

1st. Mr. Birch's report, accompanied by Mr. De Konig's survey of the district between Condawattewaan and the sea.

2nd. My despatch to Mr. Labouchere.

3rd. A report from the surveyor-general, to which I invite the particular attention of the council.

4th. Minute of February 27th.

5th. Mr. Labouchere's reply to my despatch.

From these it results, that at a cost not exceeding 7,000*l.* 50,000 acres of land may be brought into cultivation, upon terms, which, after repeated interviews with the leading persons in the district, I may confidently say are esteemed liberal, yet which, if successfully carried out, will change the face of the country in the course of a few years, and create a large export trade in rice from Batticaloa.

I took the greatest pains to ascertain the sentiments of the population, both as to the practicability of the plan and the equitableness of the proposed conditions.

The objects of the Government were stated by interpreters to large assemblages of people at Karenkottetive, Naypatemone, and Batticaloa. Explanations were asked for upon several points, and objections raised on some; but the result was, that when the matter was fully understood there was not a dissentient voice. It was admitted that if land were placed within the reach of all classes upon such terms, and a supply of water secured, the plea for chena cultivation, the most wasteful and extravagant of all cultivations, especially in the eastern province, where whole forests have been swept away by it, would cease, and men would have no excuse for passing their days in a perpetual struggle to defraud the Crown.

This is of itself no mean advantage. It will substitute regular industry for the lawless pursuits into which whole districts have been forced by the system that has prevailed during the last 25 years; and those who live to see the jungles between Ericamam tank and Karenkottetive converted into paddy fields by the measures now proposed will see also an orderly, peaceful population, with settled habits, and fixed abodes, respecting the laws that secure the property which they have been allowed to acquire.

Karenkottetive, the principal village of the Akra Pattoo, stands at the commencement of that magnificent range of paddy lands, nearly 15,000 acres in extent, which has survived the destruction of the old irrigation works, though the crops are exposed to many risks from the two extremes of drought and inundations against which the Dutch had succesfully guarded them. These 15,000 acres are not contiguous. They comprise the whole of the paddy cultivation between Karenkottetive, where there are 1,500 acres in one piece, and Batticaloa. But though separated by tracks of sand and cocoa-nut, all derive their supply of water directly or indirectly from the same source, the Pattipolle river, and all will share in the benefits of a proper regulation and distribution of this supply.

Between Karenkottetive and Naypatemone, the southern extremity of the Batticaloa lake, we passed through the cocoa-nut estates under charge of Mr. O'Grady. Further north between Ondatchy Madam and Karan Colom are those of Mr. Carey; and the estates of Mr. Munro and Colonel Spencer, under the charge of Mr. Robertson, lie 20 miles more to the north again, between Eroar and Ballechena.

Mr. Gordon Cumming's estates are near Karan Colom. We saw, therefore, a fair proportion of the 4,000 acres said to be planted with cocoa-nuts in the Batticaloa district. Generally speaking, I do not think them equal to the Jaffna plantations, or comparable to those about Natande and Madampe in the north-western province. But none of the estates are yet in full bearing, having only been planted between 7 and 9 years. About 70,000, nuts which are bought by the Moormen at from 3*l.* to 4*l.* per 1,000, was the last year's crop at Caretive; but this may be expected to increase annually as the trees gain in age and strength.

Mr. Carey's estates are models of neatness. The nursery for the young plants is like a garden. The clearing and planting cost 5*l.* an acre, which may eventually be reduced to 4*l.* This includes the wells to be sunk, which are numerous, as the young plants require watering every day for the first year. The water is found at from 5 to 8 feet deep. The system pursued by the gentlemen named appears to vary little. They all manure highly. None have tried salt, and do not attach much importance to it as a manure. But this may perhaps be owing to the fact that the soil itself is strongly impregnated with saline particles, especially that which is dug in the marshes near the estates, and spread over the roots of the trees.

It will be necessary to make some provision in next year's estimates for improving the road between Karenkottetive and Naypatemone, where the water carriage begins. The lake is the real road for the upper part of the Batticaloa district, but the large sums

invested in the cocoa-nut plantations to the south fairly entitle them to an available communication with Naypatemone. No metalling is required, and the expense for the fifteen miles will not be large.

Nothing but the habitual misapplication of the funds and labour placed at the disposal of the local Government by the road ordinance can account for the continuance of this and many other grievances, of which the innumerable petitions presented to me complained. The whole system appears to have been characterized by a total absence of plan on the part of the Government, and a gross abuse of trust on that of many of its native officers. I am unwilling to go further, or to suppose that there can have been connivance at the frauds which have been notoriously committed. But it cannot be denied that the general relaxation of discipline, the absence of any attempt at personal superintendence, and the blind reliance placed in most unworthy subordinates by the late assistant government agent, have had a very unfortunate influence upon the interests of the Crown in the eastern province, and will require a firm and vigorous hand to neutralize their effects.

The commutation system under which the district of Batticaloa is now placed, and which there is no possibility of altering until 1860, can only be accounted for by gross incapacity or unblushing favoritism. Ignorance of the localities, of the extent of land under cultivation, of the ratio of increase in the different crops, of everything, in short, that it is an agent's business to look to personally, because it is the interest of all whom he consults to deceive him if they can, for the benefit of their own families and friends, can alone account for the almost total sacrifice of the public revenue during the last ten years, in the course of which a district, the tithe of which is worth annually upon a moderate computation, as shown in the subjoined extract from Mr. Morphew's Report, 4,507*l.*, has only yielded 1,060*l.* 16*s.* 4½*d.*

There will, therefore, be a loss to the revenue in ten years, under this head alone, of 30,000*l.*, while, as the climax of absurdity, 20 per cent. abatement money is deducted for prompt payment from the miserable pittance left.

It would be unfair, however, to throw the whole blame of these arrangements upon the local Government. The general Government must bear its share. No doubt it has relied too much upon the representations made to it by the local authorities, but it has given them little aid. The eastern province has had no part in the improvements that have taken place during the last twenty years everywhere else. Its communications are just what nature made them, and few have ventured to face the difficulties which they present. Batticaloa and Trincomalie have been occasionally visited, because they may be reached by sea; but nobody in authority has traversed the country between Condawattewaan and the coast, or followed the coast road from Pulliantive to Trincomalie. Government agents and assistant agents were left entirely to themselves, without the check of publicity or the stimulus of occasional approbation. If they did well, no one praised them, if ill, no one blamed. They may have had the best intentions, but when novelty wore off, or health failed, there was little motive for exertion, and things were left to take their own course. The cutcherries contain no maps or statistical data of any kind. A survey was unheard of. And as every year increased a confusion which it was the interest of so many to promote, it required not merely a change of persons, but perhaps the very excess of those abuses that recent inquiries have exposed, to open the eyes of Government to the fact, that it was robbed with impunity, throughout an entire province, with a perfect observance of official forms.

The first circumstance that threw light upon this state of things was Mr. Braybrooke's inquiry into the timber frauds, ordered by Mr. MacCarthy when Lieutenant Governor. It is unnecessary for me to discuss the results of this, as they have been affirmed by judicial decisions, which place the existence of a vast system of swindling, in which headmen of all ranks took part, beyond the possibility of doubt. Even now it is very difficult to instil any idea of fair dealing into the minds of persons engaged in this trade; for I received last week a petition from a man whose timber had been recently forfeited, complaining of the injustice of the seizure, while the report of the government agent shews that he and his partners cut 35,000 running feet of timber, or nearly 218 feet to each tree, under licences allowing them to cut "60 logs, each log to be divided into 8 "pieces of 3 cubits each."

So it has been with the road ordinance, under which 1,200*l.* a year have been muddled away,—I can use no other term,—since 1848 without a mile of decent road to show for it, except the drive round the esplanade in Pulliantive. So it is with the salt revenue; the arrack rent; the customs; the post office. From not one of these departments do the Government receipts bear any sort of proportion to the known consumption of the population. Indeed, the government agent states distinctly in a confidential report which I received shortly before my visit to Batticaloa, that at least five sixths of the salt used in that district are smuggled; that smuggled goods are frequently found concealed upon the coast; that the arrack rent remains stationary at about 520*l.*, notwithstanding an obviously increasing demand; so that it is difficult to estimate the loss sustained annually by the revenue, without the slightest advantage to the population at large.

Here, however, the General Government must accept its share of the blame. There is not a salt-store south of Pulliantive, or a custom-house between Pulliantive and Hambantotte, or the smallest attempt at "surveillance" upon the coast, where vessels anchor

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wherever they please, and take in timber, or land goods, without the least risk of detection.

I am informed by persons worthy of credit, that the magnificent forests between the Yalle river and Karenkottetive, where the populous portion of the Batticaloa district begins, have been levelled with the ground; that every tree within reach of the streams communicating with Arregan bay has been cut down and shipped, without licence or payment, or record of any kind. I am assured that it is thirty-six years since an assistant agent, or any person claiming to represent the Government, visited this part of the district; and I only know of three white men who have been there within the last ten years, one of whom told me that he saw many acres of ground piled up with roughly-hewn logs ready for exportation, of which the Government knew nothing, and a flotilla of native craft waiting to take them on board in Arregan bay.

It is my intention to propose, in the revision of the establishments, a provision for a custom-house at this point, and to make the officer stationed there act as an inspector of timber and salt, with powers as a police magistrate. I have also sanctioned, upon the recommendation of the government agent. the immediate establishment of a salt depôt at Karenkottetive; and I am in hopes that these measures, coupled with the knowledge that a government steamer will visit the coast periodically, may have the effect of checking the illicit trade that is springing up, not merely by sea but with the neighbouring provinces of Ouvah and Bintenne.

I have also authorized the district judge to hold a court once a month as police magistrate at Karenkottetive, which is thirty miles south of Batticaloa or Nindoor; thus extending to that populous district the principle which has been successfully applied at Pusilawa and Nawellepittia. And I have granted commissions as justices of the peace to Messrs. O'Grady, Carey, and Robertson.

With regard to the Department of Public Works, little good can be done without a change at the head of it. The gentleman now in charge, Mr. Gray, though zealous and well-intentioned, is the first to admit his unfitness for the post which he occupies. Bred in the customs, and displaced upon grounds which Sir George Anderson and the Executive Council pronounced subsequently to be unsupported by evidence, he was sent to Batticaloa as assistant to the commissioner of public works, without the slightest previous training, and he found there no means of instructing himself in his new duties. No man can feel this more acutely than Mr. Gray, or express it more candidly; and as in so remote a district every public work suffers from the want of a competent head, I shall feel it to be my duty to remove Mr. Gray, the moment that I can find employment for him better suited to his abilities.

Much good may be done by placing at Batticaloa a practical man of some experience. The works to be executed are not many or large, but they require a person competent to select the best line of road through a not very difficult country, and to see that what is done is done properly. The attempt of the old provincial road committee to carry a road parallel with the lake along the sea-shore, when half a mile inland there is a succession of Moorish and Tamil villages with a population of 60,000 souls, the communications between which are the only thing of importance in the district, all the goods traffic being conducted by water, is one of those incomprehensible mistakes that no reflection can account for.

The people are not only willing but most anxious to see the road carried through their villages, as a proof of which they spontaneously moved the whole of the fences surrounding their compounds at the time of my visit, and thus opened a broad and straight line of road for upwards of 15 miles, bordered by trees, and requiring nothing but an occasional bridge for foot passengers, or a drain to carry off superabundant water, to make it as convenient as it is picturesque and useful even in its present state. I never met anywhere with greater loyalty and good feeling than were evinced throughout this densely populated district; and I sincerely hope that the visit of a Governor may be marked in this instance by some of those practical benefits which the inhabitants fondly anticipated.

I have endeavoured to point out here the advantages that the community would derive from a better application of its resources; and though amongst the petitions received many contained unreasonable and impracticable requests, I had the gratification of finding that wherever a hope was held out that the general interest should be the first thing considered, that land should be made accessible upon fair terms, the ordinance money properly laid out, the timber trade re-opened upon a better system, and a freer scope given to the undoubted energies of the people, it was admitted that such a change would be infinitely preferable to peculation and jobs, by which a few men profited at the expense of the community.

So soon as a proper head can be found for the Public Works Department in Batticaloa, there are many useful things that may be done at a small expense, and that will be included in the estimates for 1858. The assistant agent's house is falling to pieces from damp, which admits of no remedy, the fault being in the foundations; and the cutcherry is as bad as that of Trincomalie when I first saw it.* The building used as the episco-

* Vide Minute of last year, upon the Eastern Province.

palian church was originally a salt store, and is in all respects unsuited to its present purpose. The district courthouse and the custom-house are in most inconvenient juxtaposition, the first having no separate room for the clerks, and the largest portion of the last being filled with the salt removed from the church. The intervening space is filled by a noisy crowd constantly interrupting the transaction of business.

I have authorized the transfer of the assistant agent's house to what was formerly the commandant's residence in the fort, but has been used latterly as a rest-house; and as the buildings connected with the fort form a square, and are in a very tolerable state of preservation, with materials in abundance for repairs and alterations, I propose to concentrate there the whole of the Government establishments. One wing will serve as a cutcherry. There is an excellent store ready made on one side of the gate, which may be used for the civil engineer's department; and a salt store of similar dimensions may be built on the other with the 200*l.* voted last session.

I propose, further, to restore the old Dutch church that occupies the wing opposite the intended cutcherry, giving up the building on the esplanade for other public purposes; and the salt being removed from the custom-house, room enough may be found to give to the district court the accommodation which it requires, and to make separate entrances to the two buildings.

The present assistant agent's house, which is of old Dutch build, will help to furnish materials for a small rest-house, which is much wanted; and a residence for the district judge, for which the Government will receive rent, may be built either upon that site or upon the site of the present cutcherry. I have directed estimates to be prepared for these changes, and I believe that they will be found to combine economy with the most convenient arrangement for the public service.

Batticaloa to Trincomalie.

I have nothing to suggest in the way of improvement between Batticaloa and Trincomalie. There is no population to profit by the outlay of public money, and without a very large outlay nothing useful could be done. A time may come when the introduction of cotton cultivation into these vast plains, extending over 100 miles, with soil and climate said to be favourable to the growth of the cotton plant, may call for bridges over rivers, which are now only to be crossed with difficulty and risk. But this will not be in my time. Nature for some years will be left to herself, and the few travellers who venture upon this route must endeavour to choose, as we did, the season when the waters have subsided sufficiently to make the ground safe for horses, while the plains are not yet parched and arid with drought.

Trincomalie.

I had the pleasure of leaving Trincomalie upon this occasion without being called upon for a single supplementary vote, except an advance of 300*l.* to provide timber for roofing in the new military hospital next year, should this work receive the sanction of the Legislative Council. All the works sanctioned last year have been completed in a manner that does the utmost credit to Captain Philpotts, who has combined the duties of military engineer with the charge of the civil Department of Public Works.

The cemetery is now an ornament, instead of a disgrace, to the town; and the trust is constituted which is to take the responsibility of all future repairs.

The new cutcherry has been completed within the estimate, and I have seen no better work done in Ceylon, notwithstanding the want of assistance with which Captain Philpotts had to contend,—for he had not even a foreman of works under him,—and the scarcity of skilled labour. The building will afford most comfortable accommodation to the whole cutcherry establishment; and I directed a small balance, which remained unexpended upon the vote, to be laid out upon the godowns, which may then be occupied by the cutcherry peons.

The government agent proposes to transfer the site and buildings of the old cutcherry to the Civil Engineer's Department, as some of them will be available as stores. Part of the ground will be set apart for saw-pits, which are much required, and the rest used as a depôt for commissariat timber, and for timber brought to the cutcherry to be stamped.

The rifle lines (also sanctioned last year) are completed in a manner that was entirely satisfactory to the military authorities as well as to me.

The military hospital, for which 2,000*l.* were voted in 1852 and 1853, and on which 975*l.* had been spent when the work was suspended by Major-General Bainbrigge, who thought the site ill-chosen, has been the subject of much discussion among medical men. All seem agreed that the position of the hospital is good,—that too much ventilation for fever patients is worse than none,—and that, not only was there no sufficient reason for abandoning the work, but that its completion will be an act of justice to the troops, who are now most inadequately provided with medical comforts.

Upon these grounds, which were fully gone into with the major-general and the medical officers of the garrison, I sanctioned the purchase of timber to the amount of 300*l.* for the roof, without which the work could not have been resumed next year, and a vote will be proposed for the completion of the building in the estimates.

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The house of the district judge, about which there was some difference of opinion last session, again occupied my attention, Captain Philpotts having stated that it was impossible to put it into an habitable state for the 500*l.* voted (upon my own recommendation), and the surveyor-general, after examining the ground, having entirely concurred in this opinion. I was induced, under these circumstances, to sanction an additional outlay of 200*l.* upon the work, recollecting that the Government will receive a rent of 40*l.* a-year for a house which now produces nothing, and which would let for considerably more if properly supplied with water, which is now brought by coolies from the bottom of the hill to which the building owes the beauty of its situation.

I also found it necessary to sanction the appointment of a clerk of the works, capable of superintending masons and carpenters in their ordinary duties, as a necessary part of the civil engineer's establishment; and to raise the pay of the military clerk of the works, Mr. , from 2*s.* 6*d.* a day to 3*s.* 6*d.*, without which the Government could not have expected to retain his valuable services.

The repair of the government agent's house, which was provided for in this year's estimates, had not commenced at the time of my visit.

The sub-committee of the Legislative Council, in its report upon the surplus fund ordinance, expressed some doubt respecting the issue of the colonization scheme at Kandelly. I consequently gave directions that no money should be expended under that vote, without a full statement being made to me previously of the steps to be taken, and of the probability of their succeeding. And finding both from Mr. Morris and Mr. Cairns, that although the terms offered by the Government were admitted to be most liberal, people were deterred from accepting them by the fact that they were already in possession of more land and water than they were able to turn to account, from the scarcity of labour, while there was apparently little chance of obtaining a supply of new settlers from the coast of India or from Jaffna, I directed all proceedings to be suspended, so that the 1,000*l.* voted for Kandelly may be regarded as merging anew in the available resources of the colony.

Trincomalie and Kandy Road.

The questions connected with this road are many, and not easy of solution. In its present state it may be regarded as nearly useless for the purposes of communication. If much be done before it is wanted the road cannot be kept in repair without a large annual outlay; if nothing be done until wanted, it will take three years to effect the repairs that will be required, to make it of use.

At the present moment there are sixteen miles of excellent road (to Matelle) and fourteen (from Palampoota to Trincomalie) that are passable for wheel carriages. The 1,500*l.* voted last session will improve the worst parts of the road between Matelle, Nalande, and Dambool; but from Dambool to Palamboota the trace alone is preserved. The waters have worn deep gullies across the road, and in many parts follow it, as the most convenient bed, for miles together.

All the larger streams want bridging; and at Palamboota, Aloot oya, Gal oya, Dambool oya, and Nalande oya, the communication is often stopped for several days together in the rainy season.

The state of the rest-houses is also most disgraceful, and bears evident marks of that neglect which has characterised every branch of the public service in the eastern province. The whole of these useful and necessary buildings between Kandelly and Dambool are in ruins, from a miserable economy in thatch; the want of which has let the water soak into the walls, which, being of earth, have fallen in bodily, so that it forms an exception to the rule to find a rest-house with two walls out of the four standing.

That at Aloot oya, twelve miles from Kandelly, was built by contract eighteen months ago, and taken over, apparently, without proper examination, for the timbers are nothing but jungle sticks, not even squared; the walls are a shapeless mass of earth, and not one particle of the materials will be available. At Gal oya, where the rest-house is without a roof, the work was better done originally; much of the timber is still sound, and might be used for the new building.

At Habborenne, where 10*l.* spent in thatch two years ago would have saved the building, the state of things is nearly as bad; and it was impossible to find shelter of any kind from the heavy rain that came on soon after our arrival.

It is obvious that there is no remedy for this state of things so long as the rest-houses are left in the hands of the provincial committee, in a district where there are neither funds, labour, nor population.

The ordinance-money must be expended within twenty miles of the place where it is collected, and there are not half as many families within that distance of the three places that I have indicated, yet the accommodation to the public is indispensable, and travellers upon the Trincomalie road, though few and far between, have a right to hope that their interests will not be entirely overlooked by the Government.

I have therefore sanctioned an outlay of 313*l.* 10*s.* for the repair of the rest-houses at Habborenne and Aloot oya; and I propose, if the Council should think proper to comply with a similar request made by the government agent of the central province for the repair of the rest-house at Dambool, which is also in a bad state, to place the whole of those buildings under the care of the Department of Public Works, with orders to provide

for their maintenance, by making repairs when required. On the other hand, I recommend the establishment of a tariff for the rest-houses, bearing some proportion to the value of the accommodation given; and the abolition of all those privileges which are now claimed by official and military travellers. Let every man who uses a rest-house pay, from the Governor downwards; and no man who knows what it is to find shelter in the jungle, at fixed distances, for himself and his horse and his servants, especially in rainy weather, will grudge a reasonable return for so great a blessing.

I have directed the government agents for the central and eastern provinces to recommend a proper scale of charges; and though, until the traffic increases, it would only lead to disappointment to promise supplies of food, other than of the commonest description, yet the rest-house keepers should be directed to make arrangements for providing rice and fowls when wanted, as these may be found in the poorest localities.

I have now stated, I fear at too great length, my views respecting the eastern province. Great faults have been committed; there is much of past neglect to repair, as a preliminary to the good that we may hope to see done. The first step towards both is to introduce greater accuracy, as well as greater vigour, into the Local Government; to give the people fair play, while we enforce the rights of the Crown; and to ensure a proper application of the means at our disposal.

The division of the duties of the judicial and revenue departments in the Batticaloa district was a first step in this direction; but, in addition to this, I now recommend:—

1.—A survey of the whole of the paddy lands, with a view to form a proper estimate of their value before the commutation of 1860.

2.—The restoration of the irrigation works, with the prospect, ultimately, of bringing 50,000 acres of waste land into cultivation.

3.—A proper application of the road ordinance, under competent supervision, which the present government agent has already introduced.

4.—A revision of the system under which the timber trade is now conducted, coupled with the introduction of a custom-house, a timber inspector, and a salt depôt, at Arracan bay.

5.—A more frequent communication by steam with the seat of Government, connected, as I trust that this measure will be, with an improved administration of justice; as the Supreme Court will then be enabled to hold a sessions once a year at Batticaloa and Trincomalie, instead of sending all cases of a serious nature to be tried at the farther extremity of the island.

6.—A fair revision of the salaries of the government subordinates, which were fixed originally upon a scale based upon prices that have long ceased to exist, and having little reference to the duties to be performed. It is not to be denied that the consequences of this short-sighted economy are to be traced in many of the abuses that I have described, and that the best mode of securing honesty in a Government office is to make the office worth holding by honest men.

All these things bear directly upon the welfare of an energetic and industrious population. Coupled with the minor changes that I have pointed out, they will materially improve its position; while the increase in the revenue in the next five years will amply repay the public for the outlay. All that I propose to do will cost less than half the amount sacrificed by the last commutation, without benefit to any one, for there is not the least reason why the land owners of Batticaloa should not pay their tithe to the Crown, as well as the land owners of the central and western provinces, or why the salt revenue should cease to exist, practically, in a particular province, when it is evident that without its regular enforcement in all the work of improvement must stand still, and the progress of the colony be arrested.

What is wanted is the equivalent; a proper system carried out in a proper spirit; good regulations in practice as well as upon paper. The people must be enabled to point to the tangible advantages which they derive from the change of system, and then, but not till then, the change will be popular.

For this the Government must rely upon the vigour and ability of its local representatives; and I acknowledge with pleasure the services rendered during the last 15 months by the present government agent, Mr. Morris, who has been indefatigable in his exertions, and has already acquired an intimate knowledge of his province.

I have had the satisfaction of receiving from the Secretary of State a full approval of the irrigation scheme at Batticaloa; and I am indebted to the kindness of the military authorities for the means of carrying it into immediate execution, as they have placed the valuable services of Captain Phillpotts at my disposal. That officer is now in charge of the works, and has fixed his residence at Ericamam.

It will be impossible to prepare estimates, upon the accuracy of which I can rely, before the close of the present year; but the advances required will be provided from the irrigation vote, 2,000*l.* of which will probably be sufficient for the expenditure of 1857.

H. G. WARD.

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Encl. 8 in No. 35.

Enclosure 8 in No. 35.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Address of his Excellency Sir HENRY GEORGE WARD, K.G.C.M.G., on opening the Session of the Legislative Council.—July 30th, 1856.

Gentlemen of the Legislative Council,

IT is very gratifying to me to meet you under circumstances that enable me to congratulate the colony upon the satisfactory state of the revenue, the healthy condition of the producing interests, the steady increase of trade, and the active prosecution of works intended to develop this growing prosperity.

The early shipment of the coffee crop of the present season is mainly due to the improvements that have taken place during the last two years in the means of internal communication; and I need not assure you that their extension and maintenance will receive my constant attention.

The financial statement prepared by the acting auditor-general which I have directed to be laid upon your table, shows that the revenue of 1855 exceeded that of 1854 by 68,231*l.*; that the excess of revenue over expenditure in the year, notwithstanding a large supplementary estimate, amounted to 70,663*l.*; the expenditure having been 405,609*l*, while the revenue was 476,273*l.*; and that this surplus, added to the balances of several preceding years, during which the financial position of the colony imposed the necessity of a rigid economy upon my predecessors, left at the beginning of the present year a balance of 218,477*l.* 19*s.* 11¾*d.* in favour of the Government.

Deducting from this 93,521*l.* 7*s.* 3*d.*, which may be considered as unavailable, if not absolutely irrecoverable, out of a sum of 104,746*l.*, which appears in the auditor's balance sheet as the amount of "outstanding revenue debts," you will find that after paying off the whole of the treasury notes in the cutcherries or in the hands of the public there was, on the 1st of January 1856, a net surplus of 124,956*l.* 12*s.* 8*d.* available for the service of the colony, in addition to the ordinary revenue of the year, the prospects of which are highly encouraging.

For, by a second statement which has been completed by the auditor-general up to the 30th June, it appears, that, notwithstanding an increased expenditure of nearly 16,000*l.* during the first six months of the present year, 5,730*l.* of which have been laid out on public works and buildings, the revenue of the half year exceeds the expenditure by 33,590*l.*, and the estimated revenue by 32,348*l.*

As compared with the first half of 1855, there is a decrease of 5,318*l.*; but for this the receipts from the pearl fishery in that year fully account, since they amounted to 10,877*l.*, or more than double the present decrease. In the customs there has been an increase of 4,422*l.*; in land sales of 6,459*l.*; and the colony can hardly desire a better proof that in fostering with a liberal hand whatever tends to increase its trade, to facilitate the acquisition of land by all classes of the population, and to throw open the communications between the different provinces, it is in fact consulting its own best interests. The proper limit to works of this description, in the present state of Ceylon, should be the amount of means at your disposal in money and superintendence. Without the last, the money will be thrown away, for it is useless to attempt to do a larger amount of work than you have the certainty of seeing well executed.

I have much pleasure in acquainting you that it appears, by a recent survey of the pearl banks, that another fishery may be reckoned upon in March 1857, and a third in 1859; so that there is reason to hope that this branch of the revenue may now be considered as a biennial, if not an annual, addition to our resources.

With these prospects the colonial secretary will, I hope, feel himself justified in taking a larger estimate of the revenue for 1857 than he could have done hitherto, with prudence or safety, and in proposing to you to regulate the expenditure accordingly. The estimates are in a state of forwardness, and will shortly be submitted to you.

In one department a deficit must be provided for—the post office—as, in compliance with the wish universally expressed last year, I have, with the concurrence of the Executive Council, determined to propose to you the introduction of an uniform system of penny postage upon letters not exceeding half an ounce in weight. The loss upon the postal revenue, which cannot be less than 3,000*l.*, must be looked upon as the price of a boon to the community fraught with moral and social advantages, for I cannot anticipate that in the peculiar circumstances of Ceylon the increase in the correspondence is likely soon to make up for the pecuniary sacrifice.

I have now enjoyed the inestimable advantage of visiting, personally, a large portion of the island.

I have directed my minutes upon the northern and eastern provinces, as well as a minute upon the Badulla roads, to be laid upon your table.

They will show, whatever the value of my experience may be, I have not passed in idleness the time that has elapsed since the last meeting of the Legislative Council; and in our future deliberations upon matters connected with those provinces, as well as with the central province, a great part of which is now familiarly known to me, I shall hope that my opinion may be of more value than it could have possessed six months ago.

I have not failed to call the attention of Her Majesty's Government to the fact that the large balance now lying in the treasury vault is at present wholly unproductive.

But though proposals for its investment at interest have been made, I have received none, as yet, that could be deemed perfectly satisfactory.

I have suggested to the Secretary of State the propriety of employing a portion of this balance, not exceeding 25,000*l.* or 30,000*l.*, in works of an useful public character, which could not be included in the ordinary estimates without absorbing too large a proportion of the revenue.

Should this recommendation meet with your concurrence, it is my intention to propose to you in the course of the session :—

1st.—A vote of 4,000*l.* for establishing an electric telegraph between Colombo and Galle—an object in which the trade of the island is deeply interested. The Colonial Secretary will communicate to you papers showing why the Government has deemed it inexpedient to provide for the extension of the line to the northern province, upon the terms now proposed by the Government of India.

2ndly.—A vote of 10,000*l*, for the purchase of a screw steamer, combining sufficient tonnage for the carriage of goods with such a draught of water as will enable her to pass through the Paumben channel.

By my correspondence with the Secretary of State, you will perceive, that in the opinion of Captain Higgs, the master attendant at Colombo, the steamer, in either monsoon, will be enabled to perform half her passage under sail ; while the advantage of a regular monthly communication with the principal ports upon the coast will be invaluable, for the conveyance of passengers, goods, troops, military stores, and remittances in specie.

I believe that the steamer, if properly managed, will pay, as a commercial speculation ; and I propose that it should be managed as such, without reference to the movements of civil or military functionaries, who if they use the steamer must do so in conformity with the general regulations. I have not ventured to anticipate your decision upon a point involving so considerable an outlay of public money, but have simply prepared the way for it, by securing the concurrence of the Home Government.

3dly.—A vote of 1,000*l.* for the colonization experiment recommended by Captain Sim in his report upon the tank of Kandelly.

4thly.—A vote of 1,500*l.* for improving the main road from Kandy to Trincomalie, between Matelle and Dambool.

5thly.—A vote of 1,500*l.* for continuing the metalled road between Jaffna and the Elephants' Pass, from the 24th to the 28th mile-stone.

The grounds upon which I recommend these three votes are fully stated in the minutes upon the eastern and northern provinces.

6thly.—A vote of 4,000*l.* to be laid out upon estimates sanctioned by the Governor and the Executive Council in the repair of tanks and other irrigation works, under the conditions laid down in Earl Grey's despatch of 24th June 1849, namely, that grants in aid shall be restricted to works in which a considerable amount of native labour is engaged, or which can be shown to be likely to produce a fair return for the capital invested, by increasing the productive powers of the island.

I consider this vote as due equally to the interests of the revenue and the claims of the native population. I have seen the most gratifying proofs of their powers of steady and persevering exertions wherever the representatives of the Government sympathise with their wants and direct their efforts. And though I cannot now point out the precise spots upon which the money will be expended, or submit to you estimates in the usual form for each item of the outlay, I will pledge myself that not one shilling shall be spent without such a probability of success as will fully justify the experiment, when the results are submitted to you with the accounts of the expenditure.

Lastly,—I propose to take a vote of 3,000*l.* for extraordinary expenses in the department of the surveyor-general, with regard to which I must ask for the Government a similar discretionary power.

I cannot too strongly record my belief that the state of the Survey Department, and the physical impossibility of meeting the demands upon it with the present establishment, are at the bottom of half the litigation and fraud that are to be found at this moment in the colony.

With a man of great ability and untiring industry at its head, fully sensible of the defects of the system, and most anxious to remedy them, it is impossible that one third of what ought to be done and might be done profitably in every sense, morally, pecuniarily, and socially, can even be attempted by the department without a large increase of strength, which must be obtained somehow and somewhere.

Captain Gosset has submitted to me a plan for dealing with native applications for land, which are now set aside altogether, from the pressure of larger claims in the planting districts, that appears to me to merit most serious consideration. You have to choose between enabling men to become the owners of land in small allotments, on definite and reasonable terms, or to force them into an usurpation of the rights of the Crown, which they defend afterwards by every species of legal chicanery. Her Majesty's Government is in full possession of the facts, and of my opinions respecting them, and it will, I am sure, see with pleasure those remedial measures for which I shall ask you to provide by

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this vote, when they shall have been more fully explained to you by the surveyor-general.

A banking ordinance, to supply the place of that disallowed last year by the Queen, will be submitted to you. The experience of the last six months has, I think, shown that no inconvenience will result from the transfer of the paper circulation of the colony to private banks, although it is to be regretted that both the banks should not yet have entitled themselves to be placed upon an equal footing. But this transfer only renders it the more necessary that the colony should be placed in a position to derive some addition to its revenue from the large privileges which it has conceded.

I have also directed two ordinances, which I think will prove highly beneficial to the native population, to be laid before you.

The first enables those districts into which the commutation system has not yet been introduced to bring themselves under its operation.

The second grants power to districts deriving their water from a common source to revive their ancient customs, and constitutes a local tribunal for the settlement of all disputes connected with irrigation. Both ordinances are of a permissive character. I am indebted to the Queen's advocate for the admirable simplicity of the legal machinery; and I will lay before you papers with regard to the irrigation ordinance in particular that will show how carefully the subject has been considered by persons of the greatest local experience.

The supplementary estimates for the present year will be larger than I could have desired or had anticipated, for I expected to meet the Council again before the close of the year, when I left Colombo in November. Had I done so, I should have submitted to you the vote for the repairs at the Queen's house, which you all know to have been indispensable from the state in which I found it, and the vote for the two bridges at Peradenia and Gampolle. These form the largest items of the supplementary expenditure. The Queen's house has cost 1,790*l*. The Peradenia bridge 1,686*l*., in addition to the original vote. The Gampolle bridge 2,000*l*., which will carry the work on to the close of the present year, leaving it to the Council to complete it by a similar vote in the estimates for 1857. All these works have been executed in a manner that merits the warmest commendation, and the colony may congratulate itself upon having secured the services of a man of so much energy and experience as Captain Graham in the management of two most important undertakings.

I fully recognize the constitutional principle, that supplementary votes should be resorted to as seldom as possible, and as my knowledge of the colony extends I shall hope to be able to include nearly the whole expenditure of the year in the ordinary estimates. But you will, I feel confident, make due allowance for the numerous claims urged upon a Governor on his first visit to distant provinces, and for the desirableness, in many instances, of obviating the necessity of a much larger expenditure by an immediate outlay.

The grounds for all that I have done are stated in the minutes on my northern tour, and I leave them to your impartial consideration.

Gentlemen of the Legislative Council:

I shall now address you as succinctly as I can upon the subject which at this moment engrosses public attention.

I shall lay upon your table to-day copies of a despatch from Her Majesty's Secretary of State, and of an agreement entered into by him with the Ceylon railway company, for the formation of a railway between Colombo and Kandy.

This agreement is a provisional one; but it becomes a contract, legally binding upon both parties, if confirmed by ordinance within six months from the date of its signature.

Based upon the resolutions passed by the Legislative Council on the 9th of August last, the proposals originally made to the company were suspended for many months by the state of the money market in England.

They were renewed in March, upon the first dawn of peace; and after a protracted discussion, in which I feel confident that every man in the colony will gratefully acknowledge the time, labour, and thought bestowed by Mr. Labouchere upon the interests of a distant dependency, the negotiation was closed on the 8th of June, by the assent of the railway company to terms which appear to the Secretary of State "to achieve the first "and principal object of securing the completion of the railway within a reasonable time, "and which he is disposed to recommend for your concurrence."

Mr. Labouchere, in another paragraph, expresses his belief "that the stipulations "entered into will be found to have been considered with a due regard to the interests "of Ceylon, and to secure to the island important advantages."

Both in this despatch, and in a confidential despatch that preceded it, to parts of which I thought it expedient to give the same wholesome publicity that I have sought in every stage of this transaction, as the best security for arriving at a sound conclusion, Mr. Labouchere has expressed his opinion, "that it would be more advisable to commit the "construction and working of the railway to a company, which could give substantial "guarantees of solvency, than to undertake to complete the work by the direct agency "of the Island Government acting through contractors."

In this opinion I entirely concur, for though I will shrink from no duty that the interests of the colony require me to undertake, I confess that I view with much apprehension the complicated series of transactions in which the Local Government would be engaged, by the necessity of raising the capital required for so large an undertaking, upon bonds, subject to all the fluctuations of the money market, and by the influence which the chances of peace or war must exercise upon the operations of the most opulent contractor. I prefer, therefore, the intermediate agency, if it present sufficient proof of competency to fulfil its engagements, and be subjected to such conditions as will control its action upon those points with regard to which all companies are disposed to consult the interests of their shareholders rather than those of the public.

In all these respects I affirm without hesitation that the agreement which I shall place in your hands is almost unexampled in the stringency of its precautions. It is useless to analyse a document which will receive from you that full and careful consideration which it merits, whether we look to the high authority from which it proceeds, or to the importance of the objects contemplated. That its scope and tenor should not have been thoroughly understood, until the agreement itself was before the public, is perfectly natural. No precis could do it justice, or guard against some honest misapprehensions.

But the more you examine it, the more you will be convinced that, for attaining a given end, within a given time, it is nearly a perfect instrument; that the advantages are reciprocal, and by no means unfairly divided; for if the rate of interest be high, the control vested in the Government over the tariff, as well as over the choice and construction of the line, the making the payment of the guaranteed interest dependent on the actual completion of the work within the time stipulated, the maintenance of the railway in perfect working order, at the cost of the company, during the whole period of the contract, and the intervention of the Secretary of State in calling up the capital, as required, and placing it to the credit of the colony, without risk or responsibility or possible loss, are privileges of no ordinary importance.

The only fault that I have to find with the arrangement is the amount of responsibility which it imposes upon the Local Government.

But I must warn you, that you cannot lessen this, without changing the character of the agreement altogether.

It may be matter of fair consideration, whether it would be expedient to trust the Government less, and the company more,—whether it would be desirable to bind the company down, directly and peremptorily, to execute the whole work for a given sum, as has been proposed at Kandy. But in that case you must have another and a different agreement. You must create other and different machinery. You cannot call upon a body of men, who bind themselves simply to construct a line of railway, in the selection of which they have neither voice nor authority, to complete the work for a given sum, when the extent of it may vary from 70 miles to 100. There must be another limit to their responsibility; and that limit is, the provision made by the 20th clause of the agreement, namely, that "if the line, as selected by the Ceylon Government, under the "4th article, or as subsequently altered, under the 5th article, shall exceed 90 statute "miles in length," "the company shall not, for the purpose of completing the railway, "be bound to raise and provide a capital exceeding in amount 1,200,000*l.*"

In the preceding part of the same article it is stipulated, "that if the sum of 800,000*l.*, "to be provided in pursuance of the 19th article of the agreement, shall be insufficient "to defray the entire cost of constructing the railway, with the necessary works thereto "belonging, the company shall be bound to raise and expend such further capital," (not 400,000*l.*, or any other specific sum,) but "such further capital as may be required for "the above purposes," subject to the condition already specified, namely, that the length of the line shall not exceed 90 statute miles, "by making which, and by the expenditure "of 1,200,000*l.*, the company shall be held to have performed every covenant, stipu-"lation, and obligation."

There may be some obscurity in the wording of this article; but I state to you, upon the highest authority, that its object as assented to on both sides is to reserve to the Ceylon Government a double right, and to impose upon the company a double obligation. If the Government keep within the limit of 90 miles, it is entitled to call for any amount of capital, at 5 per cent., which may be necessary to complete the line. If it exceeds the 90 miles, (that is, the limit of length,) it cannot overpass the limit of capital, 1,200,000*l.*, but within that limit, as regards amount, the Government may make as large a détour as it may deem expedient or necessary.

It has been argued, that under this provision the company may waste money upon unnecessary works, in order to swell the amount of capital invested. But with the Government rest the responsibility and the check, for the company can do nothing of which the engineer of the Government disapproves, and its works must be executed to his satisfaction.

Subject to these limitations, it is the interest, both of the colony and of the company, that a power of this nature should be reserved, in dealing with a country not yet sufficiently known, and full of natural difficulties; for it may be cheaper to construct 100 miles of railway upon improved levels, than 70 miles upon the levels of the existing survey. But the right of exceeding the 90 miles is one that no prudent Government would exercise, except upon the highest professional authority.

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And now, gentlemen, let us look at the precise shape in which the question comes before you.

It is admitted on all sides, if the resolutions of public meetings be any criterion of public opinion, that the construction of a railway is desirable, for the development and security of the producing interests of the colony.

It is admitted that a fresh survey must be made before the precise direction of the line can be fixed.

It is admitted that the charge upon the revenues of the island ought not, in prudence, to exceed the interest upon 1,200,000*l.* of capital.

It is admitted that this charge must be defrayed out of fresh taxation, since the attempt to provide for it out of the ordinary revenue would paralyse for five years those improvements in roads and bridges which are now rapidly advancing, and upon which will mainly depend the utility of the railway, when completed. The nature and amount of this taxation it will be for you to consider.

Upon all these points the opinions of Her Majesty's Government are in accordance with those expressed in the colony during the last six weeks, and entertained, I believe, by the great majority of its inhabitants.

It remains for you to determine whether you can devise a quicker, cheaper, or surer mode of attaining the common end, than the adoption of the agreement concluded on your behalf by the Secretary of State, and recommended by him for your concurrence.

Mr. Labouchere has not, however, imposed upon me the duty of urging this measure upon you as one in which Her Majesty's Government is interested. Your decision will be the result of your own deliberate convictions; and if I have dwelt so largely upon my own views respecting it, it is because I regard it as my duty not to conceal them, when I see, on the one side, practical and positive results to be attained within a certain time, and by a certain amount of expenditure, and, on the other, vague suggestions, which it will take years to invest with a substantive character.

I therefore most respectfully recommend you to consider, in the first place, whether the circumstances of the colony are such as to warrant you in embarking "in so considerable an undertaking?" The Secretary of State has himself suggested the doubt, and invited your opinion respecting it.

If you adhere to your former resolutions, and think that a railway ought to be made in Ceylon, then I recommend you to make it, now that you have the means and the opportunity; for if you reject the one, and let slip the other, my belief is, that much time will elapse before you stand again in the same position.

I am not conscious that in tendering to you this advice I am biassed by any other motive than the deepest interest in your welfare, and a natural desire, when I go, to leave some useful recollections of my stay amongst you. I now commit the question to your hands, with the certainty that it will be fully and impartially considered, and with the earnest hope that whether you agree with me or not it may be brought to a right decision.

H. G. WARD.

Encl. 9 in No. 35.

Enclosure 9 in No. 35.

(No. 410.)

Civil Engineer and Commissioner of Roads' Office,
Colombo, April 29, 1857.

SIR,

IN reply to your letter No. 275, of the 20th instant, I have the honour to report, that the Queen's house, Colombo, is in good repair. The wood-work is being repainted, and will be completed in about a fortnight.

2. The pavilion at Kandy is in good repair, the new tiled roof having been completed at the close of last year.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. SKINNER,
Inspector and Commissioner of Roads.

(A true Copy.)
R. BRAYBROOK.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary,
&c. &c. &c.

Encl. 10 in No 35.

Enclosure 10 in No. 35.

(No. 97.)

Deputy Commissary General's Office,
Colombo, April 29, 1857.

SIR,

ADVERTING to your letter, No. 168. of the 18th instant, calling for my report upon the public furniture of Queen's house and the pavilion, I have the honour to state, that although much of the furniture at both residences is of an old fashioned style and pattern, and of a very mixed description, still it is upon the whole in good order. The amount specially voted last year and the year before for providing plain but substantial furniture for the bedroom has been advantageously expended, and, with a few additions which can from time to time be made to the general stock of furniture out of the sum annually voted for its maintenance, it may be considered that the Governor's residences are tolerably well supplied with all kinds of useful furniture.

But I permit myself to take advantage of this opportunity to observe, with reference to the required payment by the Governor of 50*l.* per annum for the use of the furniture

of the private rooms, that the charge appears to me to be somewhat heavy in proportion to the value of the articles. I would suggest that 25*l.* per annum would be a sufficient payment towards meeting the expense of keeping in proper order the furniture of the private rooms, it being understood, however, that every article broken or unnecessarily damaged through the carelessness of servants should be paid for at double its prime cost.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. D. BERNARD, D.C.G.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary,
&c. &c. &c.

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No. 36.

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir JOHN BOWRING to the Right Honourable H. LABOUCHERE, dated

Government Offices, Victoria,
Hong Kong, August 11, 1857.
(Received Nov. 3, 1857.)

(No. 125.)

I HAVE to apologize for some delay in forwarding the Blue Book, and for its incompleteness in some particulars. The many changes that have taken place among the functionaries,—the absence of several heads of departments from the colony,—the state of political affairs, which has disturbed to a considerable extent the ordinary resources of the Government, and augmented in various and unanticipated ways the demands upon the public revenue,—added to my own somewhat shattered health, will all, I doubt not, induce you to look with indulgence on any shortcomings or defects in the returns I have now the honor to forward.

I must, however, add, with respect to the public service generally, confided as it has been in many important departments to gentlemen new to official life, that I have every reason to be satisfied with their exertions, placed as we have all been in circumstances of almost unprecedented danger and difficulty.

And I think it is a subject of fair and honest congratulation, that, whatever mistakes, if any, have been committed, or whatever censures, deserved or not, have been directed against the Executive authority, we have succeeded in maintaining the public tranquillity, and in carrying the colony through, not alone the ordinary perils which the interruption of friendly relations with the neighbouring province of Kwangtung necessarily brought with it, but through those more mysterious and occult dangers, in the shape of assassinations, poisonings, and incendiarisms, encouraged by large pecuniary premiums, and by appeals to every passion of cupidity, malignity, and hatred to which barbarism could look for allies.

Up to the present moment, I have not drawn for one penny against any Parliamentary grant. We have found in the surplus revenues of former years, and which it was proposed to appropriate to important public works, the means of temporarily providing for the heavy augmentation of charges; but I shall have ere long to avail myself of the promised aid.

The report of the acting colonial secretary does not appear to require many observations from me. I concur generally in his views as to the state of the revenues and expenditure of the colony. I see nothing in our financial position to prevent the colony, under ordinary circumstances, from being a self-supporting colony as regards the whole of its civil establishment. The taxation upon the inhabitants is light indeed, and there is no impost but for a specific service; indeed the Crown revenues make up for the deficiencies of those expenses which ought to be provided for out of the taxes specially levied for the particular services. The police rate, now 10 per cent. on rental, is altogether insufficient to pay the cost of police, jails, &c. The lighting rate has not up to the present time covered the expenditure associated with that department of outlay; and at the present moment the reserved fund which I had intended to be applied solely to public works of utility and importance has been temporarily absorbed by the urgencies of our present position. If Lord Elgin consents to make and enforce these claims upon the Chinese Government on behalf of this island which I should undoubtedly have done had the powers of negotiation remained in my hands, I shall not only be able to repay any amount with which I may be assisted by the

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Imperial Treasury, but be enabled to resume all those undertakings which have from time to time been reported on, many of which have received your sanction, but have been necessarily suspended in order to avoid financial embarrassments. This may be a fit occasion to state, that though on the departure of Mr. Rienaecker it was officially reported to me that, whatever irregularities there may have been, the balances of public money were found to be quite correct, subsequent discoveries have caused me much solicitude, and I wait with anxiety the report of the commission which I have charged with a thorough investigation of all the accounts since the period of the last audit by the London board. The illness of the Lieut. Governor, who has been confined by gout to his house for the last six weeks, has impeded the progress of the inquiry, in which I shall have the assistance of members of the commissariat, whose practical knowledge of accounts will on this occasion be invaluable.

Mr. Bridges' opinions on the subject of legal reforms are entitled to much attention. I can confirm those opinions by the results of my own observation. The general Legislation of 1856 has, I believe, been of a most salutary character.

In the eulogiums on Mr. Caldwell's services, and the estimate of the value of his assistance, I cordially concur. To no one individual has the colony been so much indebted on its passage through our troublous times. The check upon the growing population of the colony is less than might have been anticipated; the blanks are gradually filling up; the respectable Chinese are returning, and I am persuaded there will be (if nothing unexpected occur) a gradual and a growing increase, all concurring to render Hong Kong one of the most prosperous and progressive of colonies under the protection of the British flag. When the Praya is completed, when the docks are built, communications facilitated, our sewerage and drainage improved, new markets provided, and various public buildings undertaken (as the state of our finances will allow), I think we may safely look forward with pride and confidence to a satisfactory futurity.

Whatever remains to be done for the melioration of the public health (and there is much required), the small average mortality of the colony is the best answer to those who are constantly demanding more than we are able to concede. I have had great satisfaction in receiving of late frequent testimonies to the great superiority in the salubrity and cleanly appearance of the portions of our colony inhabited by the native population, as compared or contrasted with similar localities in the towns and cities of British India, or other oriental regions.

I am as dissatisfied as ever with the state of public education in the colony. The commission I nominated never made any report, and lent me no assistance whatever in this great work. Mr. Hillier was removed first to Siam, and then from this world's cares. Mr. Medhurst was shifted to Foochau. Mr. Wade has been absolutely overwhelmed with his own duties (and has been lending habitually great and gratuitous assistance to the colonial department). To confess the truth, I have wholly failed in discovering any really efficient co-operation in this important work. You will better estimate the difficulties of this question when I mention that for the last six years 250*l.* a year has been voted by Parliament to the bishop's college, for the education of six persons destined to the public service, and that not a single individual from that college has been yet declared competent to undertake even the meanest department of an interpreter's duty, though I have no doubt of the bishop's zeal and wish to show some practical and beneficial result from the said parliamentary grant. I must also add, that to the missionaries alone I can at present look for active assistance, and that their special objects do not usually fit them for the direction of popular and general education.

As to the trade returns, though unable to furnish any accurate statistics of imports and exports, the enormous augmentation of the tonnage entering the harbour in 1856, namely, 8113,07 tons, being an increase of 206,727 tons on the shipping of 1855, is undeniable evidence of the prosperous state of that department of commerce; and I may add, that the enormous importations of rice from Siam since the treaty of 1855 have created a new trade, and have been most instrumental in keeping the food of the people at tolerably reasonable rates, which otherwise might have mounted (as in many parts of China) to famine prices.

As to the criminal returns, I am assured by Mr. May, who was long engaged in the police service in London, that the proportionate number and gravity of offences committed here is considerably less than those of the British metropolis; and when it is remembered that Hong Kong has been the recipient of the scum of Canton, the vilest and fiercest of the population of China, the results cannot but be a matter of congratulation, and serve to show that our police, with all its defects, has not been wholly insufficient for the protection of persons and property.

I have desired the colonial treasurer to prepare a report on the present financial state and future prospects of the colony, which I hope to be shortly enabled to communicate to you.

The estimates for the year 1858 are in the course of preparation. The extreme pressure of public business has led to some delay in getting them ready.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JOHN BOWRING.

The Right Hon. H. Labouchere, M.P.,
&c. &c.

Enclosure in No. 36.

Encl. in No. 36.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Victoria, Hong Kong, May 29, 1857.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to submit to you the Blue Book for Hong Kong for the year 1856. As I was absent from this colony during the whole of such year, with the exception of the first 15 and the last six days, it will not be in my power to lay before you a report similar to those written by Mr. Mercer, whose locum tenens I have the honour to be, and for past events I must entirely rely upon the information furnished by the different heads of departments.

2. The revenue for the year has amounted to 35,500*l.* 8*s.* 9*d.*, and the expenditure to 42,426*l.* 6*s.* 5½*d.*, showing, as compared with 1855, a decrease in the revenue of 12,473*l.* 2*s.* 4¼*d.*, and an increase in the expenditure amounting to 1,612*l.* 15*s.* 3½*d.*

However unsatisfactory this may at first sight appear, the causes which have produced the decrease on the one hand and increase on the other are not such as in any way to militate against the welldoing of the colony. In the year 1855 the influx of population caused a great demand for land, and thereupon almost every available lot was put up for sale, and no less a sum than 15,720*l.* 16*s.* 8*d.*, realized from this source alone. In 1856 the premiums, &c. arising from land sales amounted to only 1,141*l.* 2*s.* 2*d.*, showing a falling off of 14,579*l.* 14*s.* 6*d.* Were, therefore, the amounts realized by land sales deducted from the revenue in 1855 and 1856 it would be found that instead of a decrease there has been an increase of receipts in 1856 of 2,106*l.* 12*s.* 2¾*d.* A single item will also account for the increase of the expenditure, and that is, police and jails, which are in excess over 1855, 1,933*l.* 17*s.* 10*d.* This excess was caused by the necessity imposed (consequent on the Canton difficulty) of considerably increasing the police force, apprehending an unusual number of persons, and taking a great number of extra precautionary measures. If, therefore, I cannot report very favourably to your Excellency on the debtor and creditor colonial account for the year 1856, yet I cannot find any symptom of falling off. The colony would appear on the whole to be gaining ground; slowly, perhaps, as compared with the remarkable year 1855; but not to retrograde is to advance in a settlement like this. I now proceed to remark on the public works.

3. The surveyor general's office has passed through three hands during 1856. Mr. Cleverly, having gone home on leave in the month of February, was succeeded by Captain Cowper, R.E., and when that officer fell a victim to a lamentable accident in Canton, he was succeeded by the present acting surveyor general, Mr. Walker. The carefully prepared report of that officer sets forth in detail the various labours of his department during the year, the aggregate amount of expenditure on which has been 9,247*l.* 3*s.* 11*d.* I do not find any specific items to which I deem it necessary to draw the attention of your Excellency; but I may perhaps be permitted to remark, that the general state of the roads, streets, and drains in and about the town of Victoria reflect the highest credit on the surveyor-general's department generally, and if kept up in their present condition will enable the town of Victoria to bear the test of comparison with any colonial town.

4. The Legislative Council passed during the year 1856 no less than fifteen ordinances. Of these, up to the 31st December, Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, and 12 had been confirmed by Her Most Gracious Majesty. Ordinances 1, 4, and 6 of 1855 were also confirmed during that year. The changes introduced by the local legislature appear to have been of a most important and beneficial character, especially as regards the practice and procedure of the supreme court, and the administration of civil and criminal justice. Ordinances 6, 7, 8, 13, 14, and 15 had either been passed at too late a period in the year to afford sufficient time for obtaining the approval of the Queen thereto, or were required to stand the test of trial before being confirmed.

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5. The registrar general's department was towards the close of the year again placed under Mr. Caldwell, whose knowledge of the Chinese character and local dialects render him in my humble opinion, not only the colonial officer best suited for this particular office, but also the most necessary servant of the Queen in this colony. His return gives the amount of our population to be 71,730,—a decrease of a few hundreds as compared with 1855, but when it is remembered that the increase in 1855 was nearly 17,000 it is satisfactory to find that the experience of another year proves such large increase, although due at the time to accidental circumstances, to have been permanent. Only five houses are stated to have been empty in the town of Victoria; and this is a fact to which I must draw the attention of your Excellency, as a great proof of prosperity.

6. The ascertained number of deaths in the colony appears to be 2,443, or not quite $3\frac{1}{3}$ per cent.; but the habits of the Chinese will, I am afraid, prevent us from relying upon any calculation of this description as a proof of the healthiness or unhealthiness of the locality. That Hong Kong does not deserve the character for insalubrity which attaches to it in Europe is a matter which no resident here for any length of time will think at all doubtful.

Education.

It is much to be regretted that the benefit conferred upon the community by the numerous places for education which appear in the returns should be so nearly nominal as it seems to be at present. The free school at Saint Paul's College, under the direction of the Bishop of Victoria, has been for many years past in receipt of a yearly donation of 250*l.* per annum from the Imperial funds; but I should be at a loss to specify the advantage accruing from such outlay, either to the community in general or to the colonial Government, in the shape of interpreters or trustworthy employés. Nineteen other small schools, under the superintendence of the Educational Committee, and at the expense of the colonial Government, are scattered throughout the Chinese population of the colony. These may, and it is to be hoped will, in time yield fruit; but nothing can, I fear, well be at a lower ebb than education generally here, and so it must, I am afraid, continue for some time, chiefly owing to want of funds.

Exports and Imports.

The usual tables of exports and imports have been prepared for the Blue Book, and on being referred to will show no falling-off in the arrivals at the port; but in the absence of a custom-house, and any means of ascertaining with any certainty the correctness of such details, I feel myself unable to rely upon the returns here laid before your Excellency. They may be taken for what they are worth; but revenue and population are the only tests by which I should be inclined to try the advance or falling-off of our condition.

Crime.

The criminal returns of the supreme court show that 183 persons have been tried under 85 charges, and of these 100 have been convicted, 46 acquitted, the prosecution was abandoned against 36, and 1 stood over for trial in 1857. Piracy and cases connected with piracy account for no less than 34 of these cases and 45 of these convictions, and piracy must necessarily have been committed out of the colonial jurisdiction. Considering the amount of our population, the remainder of our calendar speaks in favour of the small amount of crime existing in 1856; but there must be a much more efficient police at the service of the colonial Government before the tenuity of the list of convicted criminals can be taken as a favourable symptom of our moral progress.

I have, &c.

His Excellency the Governor,
&c. &c. &c.

(Signed) W. T. Bridges,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

LABUAN.

No. 37.

DESPATCHES from Governor the Hon. GEORGE EDWARDES to the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE, M.P.

(No. 5.)
(Extract.)

Government Offices, Labuan,
April 28, 1857.
(Received July 14, 1857.)

I HAVE the honour to forward the Blue Book of this Colony for the year 1856.

Having reported in my Despatch, Financial No. 2, accompanying the estimates for the current year, upon the present state of the colony, a repetition is unnecessary.

COPY of a DESPATCH referred to in the preceding Despatch.

Government Office, Labuan,
December 8, 1856.
(Received March 9, 1857.)

(No. 2.)

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward the estimates for the year 1857.

2. It is with great regret I exhibit so large a deficiency in the revenue to meet the expenditure which has been restricted, with the exception of one hundred and twenty-five pounds, to the payment of the establishment, the maintenance of public buildings, repairs of roads, and the necessary incidental expenses.

3. I have estimated the royalty on coal at the minimum amount fixed, as I understood previous to my leaving England, viz., (1,000*l.*) one thousand pounds, to be secured in the lease then about to be executed.

4. I have given notice that, from and after the first of January next, the rent on the town lands, remitted by order of my predecessor, will be required. I see no reason why that indulgence should be extended. The descriptive return enclosed of the town allotments shows that most of the houses are occupied, and those lots which are not built upon are chiefly in the hands of persons well able to pay rent. At the same time I have made known that I am willing to take any individual case into consideration where the proprietors can show any just cause why the rent should be remitted.

5. The increase in the land revenue over the estimate for the year 1856 arises from the addition of the rents for the town lots, and a third year's rent in arrears due from the Eastern Archipelago Company, payable in England.

6. I regret likewise to notice the continued diminution in the revenue from the licences farmed out. This is to be attributed to the decrease of our Chinese population. In a former Despatch I stated that upwards of one hundred had left the island since January last, others have since emigrated, and I fear this number will yet be increased, owing to the entire absence of all demand for labour, and the great feeling of insecurity to life from the unhealthy state of the locality (the port and adjacent parts) where these people reside, owing to the defective drainage.

7. I am most anxious, Sir, to draw your attention to this point, as I consider the fate of the colony depends upon the means that are adopted to check the prevalent fever.

8. When the colony was first established the mortality was very great. A few drains were cut, and the result was immediate in changing the character of the fever from fatal remittent to that of intermittent and much milder form. In the two succeeding years there were very few cases of either the one or the other. From the year 1852 the drainage has been almost totally neglected, the old drains are choked up, the jungle is regaining possession of the plain, and

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the fever is now, I may say, prevalent again. Fortunately in most cases it still retains its milder character, but there have been instances when it has not been so, and death has claimed his victim; the Chinese rarely recover. Shortly after my arrival a Chinese trader arrived and opened a store, leaving his agent to conduct the business; on his return from Brunè, within the month, the agent was dead and buried, the establishment closed, and the goods removed to Brunè.

9. I arrived here, Sir, on the 16th of August. Since then, of the four Government servants with me, two have been ill with fever; of the second class employed, one half likewise. Of twenty-three convicts, nineteen. Of one hundred and twenty privates of the Honourable Company's Sepoy force stationed here, there were fifty cases of fever admitted to hospital in the month of September, and eighty-five in November. The whole domestic establishments of the treasurer and the secretary have been ill. Of the four servants I brought with me from Singapore, three have had the fever,—the first a dangerous case. The third was seized on the morning of Wednesday last, and was buried within forty-eight hours; and, as I previously reported, the managing director of the Eastern Archipelago Company sickened and died within six days.

10. I trust, Sir, this statement will justify an application to Parliament for a grant of money in addition to what is required to make up the deficiency in the revenue, that I may be enabled to take some steps to remove this great impediment to our prosperity.

11. I enclose an estimate for the drainage of the plain immediately adjacent to the port. This work can only be carried on during the dry months of the north-east monsoon, commencing in January; the whole amount will not, therefore, be required in one year.

12. Impressed, Sir, as I am with the necessity of exerting myself to protect the lives of the inhabitants, I shall not, however, incur any extra expenditure without your sanction, but restrict myself to the convict labour at my command, limited as it is, to draw off some of the stagnant waters, and employ hired labour only to the extent of one hundred pounds, to remove the jungle which is covering the clearing on Government Hill, now fast returning to that state from which it was reclaimed at great cost. Being more personally interested in this portion of the work, I should not have undertaken it were it not that delay will greatly increase the expense, and from the consideration that something must be done to stop the desertion of our population.

13. I enclose a return of Government buildings, showing their present state. The amount set down for repairs will be, I fear, barely sufficient to keep them from entire decay. The Government Offices, upon which fourteen thousand dollars were expended, are in such a dilapidated condition that during the wet season it is frequently impossible to carry on the business, the rain coming in and lying in pools in every department. The tiles were removed to relieve the building of a pressure it could not withstand, but there is every probability that the relief will have been only temporary. I have incurred this year an extra expense in repairing the roof of the commissariat store.

Enclosure.

14. I enclose an extract of a letter from Captain Chapman, reporting upon the state and management of the commissariat department, recommending the removal of the stores to the lines, alleging the insecurity of the site; they are certainly liable to the same chances with other property and the community at the port, and the consequences of their destruction would be severely felt. It would undoubtedly be desirable to place the stores in a more secure position, but, not having any apprehension of danger, I am at present more anxious to apply the means that may be obtained from Parliament to endeavour to secure the health of the sepoys, who are such great sufferers from the unhealthy state of the plain, as, were the stores to be removed it would not be advisable to leave the port without protection. Several of the military buildings are of a very unsubstantial construction, and require frequent expense to maintain them.

15. It would have been of great advantage to complete the road to Tanjong Kubong. I have, however, confined the outlay to what will be required to keep the communication open, and for the general repair of the roads already constructed.

16. I have now only to mention the item of twenty-five pounds for additional type to enable me to print our ordinances and other Government documents, the present stock being insufficient to set out even the necessary forms, returns, &c.

17. It would, Sir, have been some satisfaction to me could I have shown any source of immediate increase to the revenue. At present I have no such cheering prospect before me. The coal company has still to contend against great difficulties. Under the most favourable circumstances the works cannot be relieved of the water which now fills the new slants to the brim earlier than March next. It will then require some time to open the galleries, so as to take in the full complement of coal cutters, and set the works in full play. At present the yield of coal is small, very little in excess of six hundred tons a month; nor is there any hope of a material increase in the next quarter, though the dry weather may give some advantage. At Tanjong Kubong all proceeds at present as favourably as was expected. At Moarra a late affliction has fallen upon their prospects, the rains have been unusually heavy this season, and an extensive landslip has come down, injuring the works, covering up a considerable portion of the coal available for shipment, and bared at great cost, shutting up with thousands of tons of earth the roadway to the remainder; this is a heavy blow, and is of such recent date that I am unable to form any conclusion as to the extent of the damage, as all seem paralyzed by the calamity. I fear it may be an impediment to the loading of the steamers should they come suddenly upon them, but I trust the injury will be repaired in some little time, though at increased expense.

18. Under such circumstances I cannot hope for a larger return this year from the coal properties, calculating the royalty at 1*s.* per ton. Should the works, however, be carried on under the original agreement at 2*s.* 6*d.*, there will be a considerable increase, as I confidently anticipate that for the last six months the yield will be raised to a very respectable amount.

19. I have not considered it advisable to attempt an addition to the revenue by imposing any new tax on the population. The few remaining Chinese pay their full share to the opium and spirit farms, the remainder who are now untouched might be reached by a duty on tobacco, and very legitimately be called upon to contribute; the difficulty and expense of collection, owing to the near neighbourhood of Borneo, would, however, render the return too insignificant to risk the probability of driving away the Malay inhabitants, who, under existing circumstances, cannot be considered as a fixed population beyond the few who, having offended against the Pangerans of their own country, fear to return.

20. That I may give you, Sir, a clear insight of the present state of the colony, I enclose a return of all the land which has been disposed of on lease for 999 years, showing the amount realized and the annual rent in dollars. In the island of Labuan 662 acres are so leased; 201 have been cleared, of which 61 are attached to the residence of the several Government servants, leaving 140. The total number of acres planted with cocoa-nuts, &c. &c., is 116. Pulo Daat is an island at some little distance from Labuan; the lease was sold in the year 1855. It comprises 587 acres, of which 400 have been cleared and 300 are planted with cocoa-nuts. This is the only attempt at cultivation upon an extensive scale that has hitherto been undertaken, and unfortunately being detached from us does not afford the full benefit of so good an example. A few families of natives have established themselves in the interior of our island and have cleared some extent, growing paddy, sugar-canes, and fruit trees; there are also a few garden pieces cultivated; these have not been leased, and at present pay no rent. Applications have lately been made to the colonial surveyor for permission to occupy land by some natives of Borneo, who are anxious to establish themselves here. When they arrive I shall be inclined to accede to their request, as I would gladly see the jungle fall, which now covers many valuable acres.

21. In conclusion, Sir, I would wish to observe, that there is no doubt of the existence of very valuable coal in the island. From whatever cause its production in the market may have been delayed, I trust it will in a few months be supplied to a considerable extent; which may be increased according to the demand to any amount, relieving our mines at home from a supply that is afforded at a very great waste. Although these may be very far-sighted views,

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they may be worth consideration in applying to Parliament for a protracted support to this colony.

22. I have lately received a communication from the Datu of Palawan, expressing his desire to trade with us. A few prahus have disposed of their cargoes here satisfactorily, and I am told that more are now on their way to this port. From the islands of Soolook and the north eastern parts of Borneo, we have had this year several cargoes of too great a value for our trade, which had to seek a better market.

Were the ill repute of our climate (extended even to China) removed, there is no doubt our merchant population would increase; I do not fear to effect this great object, as I consider the climate of Labuan better than that of Singapore. That the colony has not been utterly abandoned, and yet struggles under such great difficulties, is, I consider, a fair pledge that under better auspices it will yet prosper.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE EDWARDES,
Governor, &c.

The Right Hon. H. Labouchere,
&c. &c. &c.

Encl. in No. 37.

Enclosure in No. 37.

EXTRACT of a Letter from Lieut. Chapman to Lieut. Walker, Deputy Assistant Commissary General, Singapore, under date April 1856.

I do not think the stores are in a secure spot; they are nearly two miles from the sepoy lines, and should the pirates on the neighbouring coast make a descent at night, the provisions and Government property might be captured or destroyed long before intelligence reached the lines. I am told that there was expectation of a visit of pirates, and a small stockade was hurriedly erected, and a space allotted to the commissariat sufficient to contain six weeks provisions; but what was to become of the remainder on the beach, if abandoned or destroyed? Whence were provisions to be procured? Not on the island certainly, and the harbour is often six weeks without a single vessel at anchor.

In my humble opinion the stores ought to be near the lines, and a shed kept on the beach sufficient to cover stores when landed, and until they could be removed.

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

No. 38.

No. 38.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor MOORE to the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE.

(No. 12.)

Government House, Stanley, Falkland Islands,
February 18, 1857.

SIR, (Received May 14, 1857.)

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the annual Blue Book of this colony for the year 1856.

2. You will see by these returns that the Colonial Revenue shows an increase over that of last year of about 150*l.*; this is partly ascribable to the purchase and rental of Keppel Island by the Patagonian Mission Society for missionary purposes; and, should their labours in the extension of Christianity among the natives of the neighbouring coast prove successful, it will be a source of satisfaction to feel that our occupation of these islands has materially aided so noble a cause; and it may become, I trust, the means of opening a new field for the trade of the colony.

3. The population, however, I regret to add, is somewhat on the decrease. Many of the pensioners, whose period of enrolment expired in July last, and

employés of the Falkland Islands Company, whose engagements are terminated, having preferred returning to the mother country to squander the small savings they have already made, to remaining here, where, from the high rate of wages, they might live in comparative luxury with but little work; and others who hope to find in any change an easier mode of existing in idleness and dissipation.

4. I cannot but notice, at the same time, that these islands offer at present but little inducement to persons for investing their money. The dominion over the wild cattle in the hands of the Falkland Islands Company renders it impossible for stock farming to be undertaken as yet by other parties, and the finer climate and easier life of the River Plate seem to offer greater attractions to those who might undertake the management of sheep. With respect to agriculture, corn cannot be produced with much success, and the very uncertain market for garden produce has hitherto operated as a damper on those persons who have tried cultivation to any extent. During the past year the calls for shipping have considerably decreased, no doubt from causes of a temporary nature, such, for instance, as the war; but the diminished demand for supplies and labour, consequent thereon, has produced a feeling of despondency not easily eradicated.

5. Labour, although not in great demand, is very high; but the large prices charged by the only two merchants in the colony for the principal articles of consumption counteract to a great extent the attraction of good wages. Artisans earn from 7*s.* to 16*s.* per diem, when employed, and unskilled workmen from 4*s.* to 6*s.*

6. It is satisfactory for me to be enabled to state, at the same time, that drunkenness, the vice of all new settlements, has considerably abated; that the gaol is rarely occupied; and that the best order and good feeling pervade every class of the community.

I have, &c.

(Signed) THOS. E. L. MOORE,

Governor.

The Right Hon. H. Labouchere,

&c. &c. &c.

PART VI.

MEDITERRANEAN POSSESSIONS AND THE IONIAN ISLANDS.

PART VI.—MEDITERRANEAN POSSESSIONS AND THE IONIAN ISLANDS.

GIBRALTAR.

GIBRALTAR.

No. 39.

No. 39.

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-General Sir JAMES FERGUSSON to the Right Honourable Lord PANMURE.

(No. 45.)

Gibraltar, March 11, 1857.

IN transmitting the Blue Book for the past year, it will be seen that there has been a great increase in the revenue, which has enabled me to effect some necessary improvements for the comfort, convenience, and health of this fortress, and the first subject, consequently, which requires explanation is the increase of Colonial Expenditure. On referring to pages 28 and 29 of the Blue Book, your Lordship will perceive that some of the salaries of different officers have been increased, partly on account of increase of duties, and partly from length of service; whilst on the other hand it has been found advisable to dispense entirely with the services of others.

Another item is caused by expenses in revenue buildings, and in these the principal outlay has been in repairing and refurnishing the Government House (the Convent). On my arrival here in August 1855, I found the Convent in a state requiring extensive repairs; it had not been painted, nor had anything been done to it for years, and the repairs found absolutely necessary proved in execution more extensive than were calculated on; the building itself is very old and straggling, and the climate, alternately very hot and very wet, necessitates constant care.

The other items are, replacing the pipes of the Moorish Aqueduct (the old pipes being quite choked); the improvement in the market, by which the accommodation has been considerably increased, and has proved most beneficial to the public; the conversion of the old Beef-market (which for years had been scarcely used, being situate in a different part of the town to the regular market, and the rents accruing therefrom being insufficient to keep it in repair) into a washing establishment for the poorer classes and soldiers wives of the garrison, and for baths for all classes.

This latter establishment has now been opened, and will not only prove useful in the greatest degree, and beneficial in a sanitary point of view, but will also be remunerative.

Within the last few months the Colonial Post Office, which was used solely for Inland letters, has been closed, and all letters are now received and transmitted through the regular post office, for which a suitable building in a proper situation is now being prepared.

Whilst on the subject of public buildings, I would observe to your Lordship that a Gas Company has been formed here, and the works completed; it is unnecessary to trouble your Lordship with remarks on this head, as the benefit can be easily appreciated.

The new jetty which has been completed during the past year is proving most useful.

The prolongation of the New Mole, a work necessarily of much time, is now approaching completion, and will considerably increase the accommodation for Her Majesty's vessels of war, and afford protection in case of bad weather.

The drainage of the town had been rendered very imperfect by the erection of a breakwater outside the Line-wall, but several pipes have now been laid down to carry the drainage completely outside, and the others being in progress, I hope all will be finished before the summer sets in, and that the public will no longer have cause to complain of the intolerable annoyance to which they were subjected.

During the last summer, a careful sanitary inspection was made, *house* by *house*, and the report sent to me was so well drawn up as to give me all the information I required, and preclude the necessity of any census.

Although there is an ample supply of water at all times on the north front, yet the inhabitants of the upper part of the town are put to much expense in procuring it, and it would be very desirable to form a large tank, partly for the supply of the poorer classes living there, and also for sanitary purposes, by occasionally flushing the drains of this, the most densely populated part of the town. A proposal and estimate for the formation of a tank near the Moorish Castle has already been sent for your Lordship's approbation.

It has been recommended to increase the accommodation of the Convict Establishment; its present situation is the best for the purpose, being healthy and retired; but on this subject a report from the committee will shortly be sent to your Lordship with my remarks.

A treaty with Morocco, which has been now signed, is expected by the merchants of Gibraltar to be very favourable to the trade of the place.

In submitting this report to your Lordship, I feel confident that though the new establishments to which I have alluded have increased the outlay for the year, they will be found, after a short time, not only to be beneficial to the community, but to be unattended with any increased expense.

MALTA.

No. 40.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir William Reid to the Right Honourable H. Labouchere, M.P.

(No. 54.)

Palace, Valetta, April 18, 1857.
(Received May 4, 1857.)

Sir,

I have the honour to transmit herewith the Blue Book of Malta for the year 1856, together with a statement by the Auditor General in regard to the revenue and expenditure of the islands during that year.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WILLIAM REID,
Governor.

The Right Hon. H. Labouchere, M.P.
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure in No. 40.

Revenue.

The following view is offered of the gross revenue of Malta, received during the five years immediately preceding the one to which the present statement relates.

1851	£133,080	
1852	127,728	
1853	123,305	Yearly average, £126,925.
1854	123,771	
1855	126,738	
Fractions	2	

MALTA.

2. For the year 1856 the gross receipt of revenue is stated at 144,795*l.*; but this sum includes 2,500*l.* as a subsidy from the funds of the United Kingdom in aid of the dredging service for deepening and clearing the harbours, 655*l.* recovered for overpayment of drawbacks, and 472*l.* received from the naval department for its share in the expense of constructing a mole. Deducting these three sums, the result will be a revenue of 141,168*l.*, the same being not only larger by 14,243*l.* than the before stated average, but exceeding by 8,088*l.* the collection of 1851, which is the largest yearly receipt previously derived since the reformation of the tariffs at the end of the year 1837. As compared with the revenue of 1855, the increase is 14,429*l.*

3. This increase over the receipt of the previous year is more than accounted for under the head of import duties, there having been a falling off of 1,045*l.* in the tonnage dues, and another of 1,467*l.* in the judicial receipts under modified tariffs of court dues. It is, however, hazardous to attempt to assign the cause of increase in the import duties, there being 6,600*l.* on wheat and its produce concurrent with heavier prices, and more than 8,000*l.* on wine, spirits, and beer, though succeeding to a year of great activity. At a venture, the increase may be ascribed to a larger consumption by the army and navy, to a larger concourse of persons in the transition from a state of war to one of peace, and to the improved condition of the labouring classes.

Expenditure.

4. For the expenditure of the year a provision of 122,185*l.* 13*s.* 5*d.* was made on the previous general estimate, added to 16,213*l.* 11*s.* 2½*d.* remaining unexpended from the provision of former years, and a further supply of 4,184*l.* 3*s.* 4*d.* was obtained upon supplemental estimates, besides which a sum of 2,500*l.* was furnished by Her Majesty's Government towards the service of the harbours in the manner already noticed. These four sums form a total of 145,083*l.* 7*s.* 11½*d.* applicable to the service of Malta.

5. Of this total 129,776*l.* 3*s.* 2¼*d.* were disbursed within the year, 13,137*l.* 15*s.* remain for future disbursement, and 2,169*l.* 9*s.* 9¼*d.* have been written off as unavailed of or saved.

6. At the close of the year the following was the state of the Island Treasury and of its liabilities.

Treasury of Malta, December 31, 1856.

		£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
Effects - -	Cash	117,203	6	9			
	Advances	2,641	18	6	119,845	5	3
Debts - -	Deposits	-	-	-	74,823	8	2¼
	Surplus Capital -				45,021	17	0¾
Liabilities: —							
The Revenue of December, reserved to meet the expenditure of that month, payable in January 1857 - -		10,318	12	11½			
The portion of expenditure remaining undefrayed, as above stated -		13,137	15	0			
					23,456	7	11½
	Available Surplus -				£21,565	9	1¼

Audit Office, Valetta,
April 9, 1857.

(Signed) Wm. H. Thornton,
Auditor General.

IONIAN ISLANDS.

No. 41.

No. 41.

Copy of a DESPATCH from the Right Hon. Sir John Young, Bart., to the Right Hon. H. Labouchere, M. P.

(No. 49.)

Corfu, July 18, 1857.
(Received August 6, 1857.)

Sir,

I have the honor herewith to transmit the Blue Book of the Ionian Islands for the Year 1856, together with the customary annual report.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN YOUNG.

The Right Hon. Henry Labouchere, M.P.
&c. &c. &c.

Report on the Blue Book for the financial year ending the 31st January 1857.

Revenue.

Increase.

The principal taxes in the Ionian Islands being export duties on the staple produce of oil and currants, the general revenue varies according to the success of those crops. An abundant harvest has caused an increase in 1856 over 1855 of 56,175*l.*, the gross amount of the revenue in the former year being 184,646*l.* and in the latter 127,471*l.* It will be observed that a good crop of oil and currants influences the revenue, not only *directly* by raising the export duties, but also *indirectly* by enriching the population in general, and so enabling the inhabitants of these states to import and consume a greater number of foreign articles subject to duty. Hence not only do the export duties on olive oil show an increase in 1856 of 24,233*l.* 0*s.* $11\frac{3}{10}$*d.* and those on currants of 20,952*l.* 7*s.* $7\frac{1}{10}$*d.*, but also the general import duties (denominated "customs") exhibit an increase of 9,100*l.* 18*s.* $4\frac{3}{10}$*d.*, while there is, moreover, a very considerable augmentation in the special imports of tobacco, grain, gunpowder, and foreign wines and spirits.

Nor does the influence of the improved crops on the revenue stop even here. The landlords and other creditors have taken advantage of their debtors being in better circumstances to compel the payment of arrears of rent and other obligations; hence the increase which will be remarked in the items of stamps, police dues, judicial and registration fees, &c. Commerce and correspondence, stimulated by the same causes, have produced larger returns from the post office and the bonding warehouses. Finally, the increase of payments under the head of public instruction is accounted for by the improved position of the higher classes augmenting the number of students in the college, and to the recovery by that department of some outstanding debts.

Decrease.

The chief heads of general revenue showing a decrease are:—

Export duty on wines grown in the islands—of which the islanders themselves were in 1856 able to purchase and consume a larger quantity, and thus leave less for exportation.

Health office dues—which have decreased in consequence of the abolition in the Ionian Islands as elsewhere of many of the vexatious and superfluous quarantine restrictions, which until quite recently impeded the commerce and navigation of the Mediterranean. The great increase of steamers, and the

IONIAN ISLANDS.

progress of more enlightened opinions of contagion, have combined to bring about this desirable result.

Freight by the Ionian steamers—which have now ceased to run regularly, the extension of the lines of the Austrian Lloyd's Company having rendered unnecessary this heavy charge on the revenue of a small state.

Miscellaneous.—Under this head appears a decrease of 4,727*l.*, owing to the removal of the temporary reduction of 10 per cent. on the salaries of public servants, necessitated by the depression of the revenue during the years of failure of crops.

Expenditure.

Increase.

Under the head of education there is an increased expenditure over 1855 of 847*l.* 5*s.* $8\frac{6}{10}$*d.*, in consequence of a larger number of students having been admitted during this year into the college and seminary, while the price of provisions has doubled.

The increase of 158*l.* 19*s.* 8*d.*, which appears under the head of collection of revenue, &c., is accounted for by the necessity of the employment of extra assistants to meet the increased demands of the service. Similar is the cause of the small increase under the head of courts of justice, &c.

In the contingent expenditure there is an increase of 1,177*l.* 17*s.* 9*d.*, which is principally to be ascribed to the payments made to two Ionian families, in part liquidation of their claims on the Government.

Decrease.

The decrease of 3,202*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* that appears under the head of the Legislative Assembly is caused by there having been no session in 1856 (the meetings of the Ionian Parliament being biennial), and consequently the usual payments not having been issued to the members.

The decrease in the civil and judicial establishments arises from the reduction of certain salaries and places.

The decrease of 541*l.* 5*s.* $6\frac{6}{10}$*d.* in the department of public works is caused chiefly by the removal of the steam dredger lately employed in deepening the harbour of Zante.

Several small items of decreased expenditure are casualties, or arise from causes which have been already explained above.

Local Revenue.

The local revenues of these islands are subject to the same influences as the general revenue, and show an increase over 1855 of 13,158*l.* 15*s.* $9\frac{2}{10}$*d.*, which is to be ascribed to similar causes.

The late abundant crops have enabled the holders of Government lands to pay up some of their arrears. The road tax, which is an impost of $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on exports, has produced an increase of 3,536*l.* The improved circumstances of the population have enabled them to augment the revenue by the payment of an increase of 487*l.* for arms licences, principally for fowling pieces.

Under the head of *salines* appears an increase of nearly 3,000*l.*, in consequence of a greater demand for Ionian salt in foreign markets. The same cause has produced an augmentation of 581*l.* for export duty on Zante soap.

Besides other small items, there is a decrease in the municipal expenditure of 1,973*l.*, which is mainly to be attributed to the cessation of the cholera, and to the consequent reduction of the expenses caused by that epidemic.

Public Debt.

The augmentation of the revenue during 1856 has enabled the executive Government to reduce the public debt by 47,200*l.*, by paying off the sums which were borrowed to supply the deficiencies of former years.

On the whole, the present financial position of the Ionian Islands affords ground for much satisfaction.

The receipts of the year have, perhaps, exceeded what might reasonably have been expected, for the customs have steadily improved, although here, as at

Malta, the price of provisions has doubled since the commencement of the Russian war, and their continued dearness has tended to lessen the importation of various articles subject to duty.

Certain classes of the population have benefited largely by the high prices, arising from the demands of the garrison and shipping, and for the supply of the army and of the naval and military establishments in the East. But it is equally certain that the long-continued dearness of most of the necessaries of life has pressed severely on numerous families, such as those of many of the public *employés*, *&c.*, which depend chiefly or entirely on scanty and fixed incomes.

It is to be hoped that the main cause of the recent dearth having been removed prices will gradually return to a more normal state.

Military Contribution.

During the year 1856, the annual military contribution of 25,000*l.* has been regularly and fully paid.

Judicial Establishment.

There has been no material change in the judicial establishment during 1856.

Ecclesiastical Establishment.

No material alteration.

Education.

There was no change in the system of public instruction during 1856; but a bill will be laid before the Ionian Legislative Assembly in the session of 1857, embodying various important reforms, which, if they become law, will, it is expected, greatly improve this important branch of the service.

Population.

An elaborate census of the Ionian Islands was taken in 1856, with every care to ensure the greatest possible accuracy. A "numbering of the people" has always been, for many reasons, a difficult and delicate process in the East; and that it should prove so in this country will not be a matter of surprise to those who recollect the difficulty which has attended the taking of the census in Ireland, and which still attends the collection of agricultural statistics in England. It appears that the aggregate population has been recently over estimated, the more careful census of 1856 showing only 227,106, as compared with the return of 240,080, in 1855. It is to be observed, however, that there was a considerable excess of deaths over births in 1855, in consequence of the cholera having broken out in the latter part of that year in the three principal islands of Corfu, Cephalonia, and Zante. It is also certain that a large portion of the floating population took their departure during the Russian war to seek their fortunes as camp-followers in the Crimea, and at the naval and military establishments at Constantinople, Smyrna, &c., and that a considerable part of this number has never returned to these islands. Still, in 1856, there appears an excess of births over deaths, and the aggregate population of these states has been steadily (though slowly, when compared with the newly settled English colonies,) on the increase during the last 40 years. Previously to 1815 it had been stationary, if not decreasing, during two hundred years; for in the 17th century Corfu appears, from a census taken by the Venetians, to whom it then belonged, to have contained 51,000 inhabitants, which was above its population when first placed under the British protectorate, since a careful census taken by the French Government in 1809 showed only 45,000. Corfu now (1856) contains 67,930 inhabitants, exclusive of the British garrison.

Agriculture.

The agriculture of the Ionian Islands revived in 1856, after the depressing effects of the failure for many successive seasons of the staple crops of oil and currants. The sprinkling of sulphur on the currant-vines during the spring has been found an efficient remedy in these islands, as elsewhere, against

IONIAN ISLANDS.

the blight which had ruined their produce for several previous years. It is hoped that the application of capital and enterprise will introduce other scientific improvements.

General cultivation is rapidly extending, especially in Corfu, where the constant demand for fruit and vegetables for the supply of the English garrison, and of the great number of steamers which now visit this port and lay in their stock here, has covered with flourishing market gardens all the ground in the neighbourhood of the town.

Commerce.

The commerce of the Ionian Islands has greatly increased during the last few years. The thriving trade with the Russian ports of the Black Sea was reopened in 1856, at the close of the late war. Corfu, in particular, has now become the chief centre of steam communication in this part of the Mediterranean, and its prosperity is continually increasing. It is already an important depôt for British manufactures, which can be transmitted easily from its bonding warehouses to all the ports of the neighbouring countries. An almost unlimited field for trade is now open, and easily accessible from Corfu, in the neighbouring provinces of European Turkey, the principal harbours of which are connected with this port by weekly steamers and by numerous coasting vessels. There is also regular and frequent steam communication with Trieste, Venice, Ancona, and all the other chief ports of the Adriatic; with Constantinople and the Black Sea; with Syra, Smyrna, and the Levant generally; with Patras and the rest of Greece; with Messina, Palermo, and Italy; with Gibraltar and England by English mercantile screw steamers; and with Alexandria. A large portion of the passenger traffic to Egypt and India now passes by Corfu, which is as essential to the safety and convenience of the route to the East by Trieste as Malta is to the safety and convenience of the routes by Marseilles and Gibraltar.

G. F. BOWEN,
Secretary to the Lord High Commissioner.

Palace, Corfu,
18th July 1857.

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Printed by George E. Eyre and William Spottiswoode,
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For Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

THE

REPORTS

Made for the Year 1857 *to the Secretary of State having the Department of the Colonies; in continuation of the Reports annually made by the Governors of the British Colonies, with a view to exhibit generally*

THE PAST AND PRESENT STATE

OF

HER MAJESTY'S COLONIAL POSSESSIONS.

TRANSMITTED WITH THE BLUE BOOKS
For the Year 1857.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
9 *August* 1859.



LONDON:
PRINTED BY GEORGE EDWARD EYRE AND WILLIAM SPOTTISWOODE,
PRINTERS TO THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.
FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE
1859.

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PART I.

NORTH AMERICAN COLONIES.

PART I.—NORTH AMERICAN COLONIES.

CANADA.

CANADA.

No. 1.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor-General the Right Hon. Sir E. HEAD, Bart., to the Right Hon. Sir E. B. LYTTON, Bart., M.P.

(No. 110.) Government House, Toronto, August 30, 1858.

SIR, (Received September 13, 1858.)

I HAVE the honour to forward with this Despatch the returns from the several Departments containing the Statistics for the year 1857. These returns are as follows:—

1. MS. list of Officers.
2. Public Accounts.
3. Trade and Navigation.
4. Public Works.
5. Crown Lands.
6. Post Office.
7. Penitentiary.
8. Militia.
9. Education, Upper Canada.
10. Education, Lower Canada.
11. Geological Survey.

2. With regard to the condition of the province during 1857, my report is not by any means so favourable as I anticipated at the commencement of the year, or as I could have desired. The financial crisis of last autumn swept over the length and breadth of North America, blasting undertakings in which capital had been invested with perfect confidence, and throwing back into poverty those who had relied on such enterprises for employment or for ultimate gain. The re-action from England and the United States would alone have been sufficient to have involved Canada in difficulties similar to those which pressed on both these communities. Credits given were suddenly withdrawn, and goods bought in full reliance on a speedy and profitable sale became at once valueless, whilst payment was exacted from the importer with double rigour.

3. On the farmer the shock was scarcely less severe. In a community where there is little enterprise the ebb of pecuniary prosperity is, as a matter of course, less felt, but in Upper Canada every man is anxious to improve his farm buildings, or extend the limits of his cultivated land; this he will do as far as his ready money will carry him, and a little further. The sudden withdrawal of the aid which he reckoned on from the local bank leaves him without the means of paying the artificers whom he has employed, whilst the fall of prices obliges him to part with whatever produce he may have on hand at a loss, lucky, indeed, if he can sell it at all.

4. The labouring classes have felt the consequences of this in the increased difficulty of obtaining employment, and in the reduction of wages.

5. The following statement made to me by a gentleman resident in the county of Oxford, C. W., will shew the rates current in his part of the country during the last two years:—"In 1856 and 1857, my wages were to farm labourers (they boarding "themselves) $24 per month, and in October 1857, I reduced them to $16 per month, "which is all I am paying this year. I give them wood to cut for themselves and a "house, and did the same at $24. Hay harvest, and find themselves—

"10*s*. York, per acre ($1 25c.) 1857.
"7*s*. ditto ($0 $87\frac{1}{2}$/100) 1858.

	1857.	1858.
"Wheat harvest -	$2 50c. per acre -	$2 0
"Peas and oats -	$2 0 ditto -	$1 50
"Harvest hands, per day	$1 50c. - - -	$1 0."

6. As a natural accompaniment to all this, men who were supposed to be worth thousands in land and buildings suddenly found themselves the owners of that which no one could buy, or which, if sold at all, would not fetch one-tenth part of the nominal price that it bore six months before.

7. These phœnomena, however, were not peculiar to Canada. In one respect we may boast our superiority over our neighbours in the United States. None of our banks suspended specie payments, and we were thus spared the misery inflicted by the sudden collapse of the paper circulation in the hands of the middle and lower classes.

8. The pressure however, has not yet passed away.

9. The finances of 1857, and of the current year have shewn: and will show, strong and manifest marks of the embarrassed condition of the country. The diminution of revenue, taken together with the large undertakings in public works in which the Government had long since embarked, will task the energies of Canada to meet the crisis and its consequences. Still, I believe, that substantially, the resources of the country are unimpaired, and that its tendency to advance will overcome the temporary depression which now weighs us down.

10. There is one great source of future prosperity in Canada which ought to increase in importance from day to day. I mean the western trade.

11. Her Majesty's Government are already in possession of the reports of Mr. Consul Wilkins, of Chicago. What do these documents show? They prove that since the year 1854, under the Reciprocity Treaty, a new line of communication has been opened. It appears that in 1854 the number of British vessels entering Chicago was 5, and clearing from it 6. In 1855 those numbers rose to 77 and 61. In 1856, to 110 and 104. In 1857, to 119 and 101. The imports of lumber in British vessels were in 1850, *nil.* In 1857, about 15,000,000 feet.

12. You are well aware, sir, of the fact that the progress of Chicago has itself been most marvellous. In 1854 it is said to have contained a population of 80,000 persons, and in 1856, this population amounted to 110,000. But I am informed that the progress of Chicago represents but feebly the rapid growth of the North Western States of the American Union, which are fast settling from day to day. The produce of these lands will be enormous, and their demand for manufactured goods and other imports will necessarily be in proportion.

13. Perhaps the most important question for Canada must be, what will be the natural and most easy road for this commerce to pursue?

14. Mr. Wilkins is of opinion, that the grain from Chicago may be laid down for shipment to Europe at Montreal at least from 40 to 50 per cent cheaper than at New York. I have no means of testing the accuracy of these figures, but the consideration is a most important one.

15. A short time since a very intelligent Norwegian gentleman, who has settled at Green Bay, high up on Lake Michigan, called on me. He assured me that the deep conviction of himself and the persons settled about him was, that their own trade, and that of the North Western regions beyond them, must ultimately look to Montreal as its port, and the St. Lawrence as its highway to the ocean.

16. I believe that no man can at present estimate the volume of the tide of commerce which twenty years hence may pour down this channel.

17. It is painful for me to state that petty and vexatious restrictions, in the nature of consular certificates loaded with high fees, have, in some degree, impeded this trade with the United States, and the working of the Reciprocity Treaty since last year.

18. My efforts, through His Excellency Lord Napier, to get these restrictions taken off have hitherto failed. If a feeling of irritation on the subject springs up in Canada, there will be a strong effort made to impose trammels of the same kind on the American trade which crosses our territory—a proceeding fraught with inconvenience to both countries, and more especially detrimental to the trade of Detroit.

19. In my "Blue Book Despatch" of last year, I alluded to the number of cattle conveyed across our Peninsula from Windsor to the Suspension Bridge over the Niagara River. The number of these animals transported in 1857, by the Great Western Railway, was as follows:—

	To Suspension Bridge, Niagara.	To Buffalo viâ Paris.	Total.
Cattle, Head	17,087	6,021	23,108
Sheep	16,995	4,250	21,245
Pigs	109,763	36,661	146,424
Total	143,845	46,932	191,777

CANADA.

20. If this transit trade were to be embarrassed by consular certificates on each animal, or each car-load of pigs, the loss to all parties would be very considerable.

21. I wish I were able to say that I thought the Reciprocity Treaty had been acted on throughout by the United States Government in a liberal and conciliatory spirit, but such is not my opinion.

22. I have spoken above of the pressure of the monetary crisis on the farmers. No doubt, as I observed last year, some slight alleviation to such pressure at the dead season of the year has been afforded by the power of getting grain and produce to market by means of the railways. From the 1st of December 1857 to the 30th of April 1858, whilst all navigation was closed, the Grand Trunk Railway carried the following quantities of flour and grain :—

Barrels of flour - - -	178,083
Bushels of grain - - - -	81,022

Of this, 47,841 barrels of flour, and 35,238 bushels of grain, were carried to the coast for shipment at Portland.

Enclosure.

23. I annex to this Despatch a printed copy of the Report of the Committee of the Canadian Legislative Assembly, on the Trade of the lakes and seaboard between the different Atlantic ports in America and Great Britain. I am far from professing to agree with all the reasoning or suggestions of the Committee, but the report and the appendices thereto contain much valuable information on the trade of Canada. The statement with reference to the impediments offered to British vessels by the Navigation Laws of the United States is peculiarly important, and I would strongly urge that the adoption of some more liberal system should be pressed on the United States Government.

24. Even if it were confined to the lakes the boon would be great, and the power of shipping goods from one American port to another, or one British port to another, by British or American vessels respectively, would be materially beneficial. As a matter of course, the admission of British built vessels to an American registry, and the opening of the coasting trade on the seaboard would be a great additional advantage.

25. In conclusion, I would observe, that the efforts made to promote railways in Canada, and to extend our public works, have taxed the strength of the colony, and must for long draw heavily on its resources ; but these railways and improvements are, we may hope, sure to produce additional ability to meet the burthen thus imposed upon us. I consider our present condition as one of langour and temporary weakness, not one of constitutional feebleness and total prostration.

26. A great interest attaches to the working of the Elective Legislative Council. I think it right to state that twelve additional elective members will be chosen this autumn, leaving two more groups of twelve each to be added at intervals of two years. Up to the present time no difficulty has arisen from the presence of the twelve chosen by the people in connexion with the remaining members originally nominated by the Crown, who retain their seats for life. On the contrary, many valuable members of the council have been added by the choice of the people. Free discussion, combined with decorum, and an independent bearing as one of the two Houses of Parliament, have marked their proceedings, and I see no reason to fear that an additional infusion of the elective element will disturb this state of things.

27. In compliance with the suggestion made in your Despatch of the 11th June, No. 6, I enclose a list of the Acts assented to by me in the session just closed, with copies of the following five Acts :—

Laws.

a. Tariff.
b. Imprisonment for Debt.
c. Election Frauds.
d. Synod Act.
e. Rate of Interest.

a. The duties imposed by this Act are somewhat higher than those levied under the Act previously in force. The main object has been to obtain an increase of the revenue for the sake of meeting the obligations of the province. It is impossible to deny, however, that there exists in the assembly a feeling in favour of protective duties, and the ad valorem principle.

b. In this Act I would refer to the 17th and following clauses as directed against the system of fraudulent assignments and preferences, but I apprehend great difficulty may be found in establishing in court the facts required to bring certain classes of cases under the operation of these clauses.

c. This is an Act likely to work most beneficially, and it is urgently required. The frauds practised at the last election were numerous and notorious.

d. This Act declares the meaning of the Act 19 & 20 Vict. c. 141. which was reserved by me and sanctioned by Her most Gracious Majesty, after a reference to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council. Had the provisions of the present Act in any way substantially altered those of the former one, I should have thought it my duty in like manner to reserve it for the Queen's pleasure, but it does nothing more than legally attach to the first clause of that Act the meaning which has already been assumed to be the true one in Upper Canada, that is to say, that the laity were to meet at the preliminary synod by representatives, not personally, or as it were, in a sort of primary assembly. At Quebec, an attempt has been made to assert this last to be the true meaning of the Act, and indeed, the omission of all notice of representation in the first section, taken together with its express mention in the second, makes it probable that such would have been the decision of a court on the words of the Statute. The Bishop of Quebec visited Toronto, and expressed a strong opinion that such on interpretation would be fatal to the beneficial working of the law in his diocese, and it was sufficiently obviousf rom what took place, that this must have been the case. Considering too, that the circumstances admitted of no delay, I have not hesitated to pass this Bill as supplementary to the former Act.

e. This Act relaxes to a certain degree the restrictions previously existing on the interest of money. Although conscientiously opposed by a certain number of the Roman Catholics, and by a large body of the Lower Canadians, it was much desired by the commercial community at large, and I have little doubt that it will be found to work beneficially, so far as it goes. My own opinions are strongly in favour of no restriction on the rate of interest, especially in a country where capital is urgently required, and where in good policy every inducement ought to be offered for its investment.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND HEAD.

Right Hon. Sir E. B. Lytton, Bart., M.P.
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure in No. 1.

Enclosure.

REPORT.

To the Honourable the LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF CANADA.

THE Select Committe appointed with power to inquire into the past and present course of trade between the Lakes and the seaboard, and between the different Atlantic ports in America and Great Britain,—the comparative amount of traffic passing through the United States and this province, the cost and time required in transportation, and the general cost of ocean freights; also, the practical operation of all existing treaties, Acts of Parliament, despatches, orders in council, rules and regulations, of the respective Governments of Great Britain, the United States, and this province, and of all tariffs, duties, and tolls; and the effect already produced and likely hereafter to be produced thereby upon the trade of this province, as well as upon agricultural, manufacturing, shipping, and general interests, also the effects produced upon the inhabitants of the United States and of Canada; and generally all matters and things relating to the home and foreign trade of this province; and other references,—beg leave to submit the following report:

(*No.* 1. *On Postal Subsidies.*)

1. Your Committee have examined the official documents and returns, and also all the evidence that could be procured during the short time they have been enabled to give their attention to the various subjects submitted to them.

2. His Excellency the Governor-General having, at the opening of the present session, recommended to the notice of the Legislature the increasing value of the lake commerce of Canada, and the importance attached to emigration, and the employment of ocean steamers, your Committee cannot too strongly urge them on the favourable consideration of the House. The increasing value of the Lake trade is referred to in the reply of the British consul, J. Edward Wilkins, Esquire, of Chicago, [See App. No. 1. Report of Mr. Wilkins, British Consul, Chicago] who points out the unsatisfactory operation of the coasting trade in British vessels, as well as on the direct import and export trade between the western regions and Great Britain, and other transatlantic countries, by way of the river St. Lawrence and the Great Lakes, the restrictions which exist, and at the same time suggests a remedy This document is entitled to attention.

3. The proportion of the Lake trade diverted to New York is as six and one-half million tons to about half a million forwarded to Quebec. The relative value and amount of tolls is also given in Appendix No. 2. The comparisons made by Messrs. McAlpine and Kirkwood was as eighty-five to

CANADA.

fifteen in favour of New York (as shewn in their report to the Harbour Commissioners, Montreal), which corresponds very nearly with the above quantities.

4. The imports into Canada by the canals and railways in the United States, in the year 1856 amounted to the sum of $28,216,180 [See Trade and Navigation Returns, Table 2, p. 134], while the imports into the United States by the St. Lawrence Canals, through Canada, during the same year, was only $13,492 [See said Returns, Table 7, p. 129]. The value of the exports from Western Canada, through the ports of New York and Quebec, are not given in the Trade Returns. However, the exports from Canada to the United States amounted to $17,979,753 [See said Returns, Table 14, p. 188.]

5. In 1850 the Provincial Government discovering, from the comparative amount of toll received on the Erie and St. Lawrence Canals, that the trade of the Lakes was diverted to New York, instituted an investigation, and attributed the cause to the high price of ocean freight from Quebec to Liverpool, [See Report of Chief Commissioner of Public Works in Journals, 1851,] the large amount paid by the Governments of Great Britain and the United States, as a postal subsidy, to the mail steamers plying between Liverpool and New York, representing at five per cent. a capital of 7,000,000*l.* sterling, the effect of which was to force an equal amount of tonnage in packet ships (which were displaced by those steamers) into the emigrant trade, thereby reducing return freights to ballast prices.

6. Emigration at the port of Quebec increased from 20,000 in 1844 to 90,000 in 1847, after which it decrease within three years to 32,292; while emigration at the port of New York had increased from about 80,000 in 1847 to 331,276 in 1851, [See App. A. No. 3. Return Chief Agent Emigration]. A more striking instance of the diversion of the ocean trade from Quebec to New York could not be adduced. This diversion does not arise from any defect in the navigation, or excess in the prices of freight between Quebec and any ports in the interior. The comparative prices of freight from Chicago to the seaboard average from 25 to 50 per cent. in favour of the St. Lawrence [See App. No. 4. Letter of Secretary, Board of Trade, Toronto; Letter of K. Tully, Esq., Civil Engineer, Toronto; Letter of Mr. Bundy, Toronto; Opinions of W. Kenighan, Chicago; Letter of Secretary, Board of Trade, Quebec: and see also App. No. 7, Evidence of Captain Pierce before Committee].

7. As an additional proof of the natural advantages the St. Lawrence possesses, reference is made to the Appendix, which shows the comparative length, dimensions, and capacity of the canals, railways, and natural water communications through Canada, compared with those through the United States. [See App. A. No. 5]. From the above facts it is apparent that the mails, passengers, emigrants, and every description of goods, can, at the present moment, be conveyed from Quebec to Chicago or any lake port in the interior, or vice versâ, at less cost and in less time than from New York, notwithstanding that the high price of freight between Quebec and Liverpool has diverted almost the entire trade of the lakes to and from Europe to New York.

8. To regain this trade it is proposed to establish a daily line of screw steamers of not less than 2,000 tons burden, with a speed of from ten to twelve miles per hour, between Liverpool and Quebec [See App. No. 6], to connect with another line of steamers of 1,000 tons burden, of the same speed to the Welland Canal and Railway, Toronto or Hamilton, intersecting a line of similar steamers on lakes Erie or Huron to Chicago. By this connection, first-class passengers could reach Chicago from Liverpool, over the Grand Trunk Railway, by Quebec, in about twelve days; emigrants and light freights, by rail and water combined, in about 15 days; and by steamer throughout, in from fifteen to twenty days, thus shortening the passage, as per the log of the "Dean Richmond," from sixty-two days to twelve or twenty, and also lessening the price of transportation from 25 to 50 per cent. [See App. No. 7, Captain Pierce's Evidence].

9. The proposed line of ocean steamers would not interfere with any existing interest, neither would it give any exclusive privilege; steamers could be placed in the line as required, receiving a share of the subsidy in proportion to their tonnage, until a sufficient number is provided. Those not familiar with the trade of the West are startled at the idea of a daily line, but, when reduced to figures, it will not be found formidable; 2,000 tons per day for 200 days, the length of the season, makes only 400,000 tons. We find the Erie Canal, before its enlargement, with locks of only 90 × 15 × 4, in 1853, conveyed 4,247,832 tons, valued at $207,199,570, on which tolls amounting to $3,204,718 were received. To show that the principle portion of this trade is carried on in the summer season, we find that, out of 3,129,118 barrels of flour conveyed from Buffalo to New York in 1856, only 482,000 barrels were conveyed by railway during the five months the Erie Canal was closed, (as shewn in the Canal Commissioners Report, 4th February 1858), proving conclusively that the bulk of the trade of the West comes forward during the period of navigation, which by the way of Quebec commences as early and continues as late as by the Hudson.

10. Owing to the saving in distance by this route (some 500 miles), two days would be gained in the conveyance of the mails to Quebec over New York, and a communication established with a lake coast of double the extent of the seaboard of North America, creating a direct trade between the producer and consumer, which would yield a greater revenue than the amount of the subsidy paid by the Government; and, while attracting a large traffic to the Grand Trunk Railway and the St. Lawrence Canals, which do not now pay the cost of management, would render them productive. The establishment of this trade will be the means of removing restrictions and charges imposed by the Customs regulations in the United States, and all evasions of the Reciprocity Treaty by making England our best market, would cease, as it would be reached at less cost through our canals and by our own vessels, than through the United States. It will also create an indentity of feeling with the citizens of the Western States, which cannot fail to produce the most important commercial and political results, and may truly be considered a national object. For these reasons your Committee recommend a joint Address to Her Majesty, praying that Her Majesty may be pleased to recommend to the Imperial Parliament to grant the same amount of postal subsidy to the ocean steamers between Liverpool and Quebec as now paid to

the line of steamers between Liverpool and New York, upon condition that a daily line be established between Quebec and Liverpool in summer, and a weekly or a semi-weekly line, as may be required, between Portland and Liverpool in the winter.

(*No. 2. On Duties, Tolls, and Public Debt.*)

11. Your Committee, having examined into the practical operation of the duties, tolls, and public debt of the Government of the State of New York, and of this Province, have given due consideration to its bearing upon the trade of the respective countries. The public debt of Canada has increased from year to year to about fifty millions of dollars, twenty-five millions of which have been created since 1853, principally in the construction of railways yielding no income [See Public Accounts, 1857, p. 223]; while that of the State of New York has been reduced to about $31,000,000 (as shewn in the Comptroller's Report, State New York, same year, p. 63), of which about twenty-five millions have been expended in the construction of her canals, the income from which repays the interest, and, under the provisions of her constitution, will repay the principal within twenty years, leaving thereafter, notwithstanding the reduction of the tolls by one third, a liberal support for the maintenance of her State Government, with the assurance that when the debt shall be paid off tolls may be almost wholly removed. It is, therefore, imperative, if Canada is to become a successful competitor for the trade of New York, that her public debt be reduced to the same limit within the same time. The trade of Canada has been diverted through other channels: both her imports and revenue have fallen off; available capital cannot be obtained at any reasonable rate of interest; and a general depression prevails throughout the country requiring immediate relief. Canada, however, still retains the elements of wealth incident to a young and rising country, and only requires time and the introduction of capital to regain her former prosperity.

12. This capital can be obtained by a loan of imperial credit, and the strongest possible grounds exist to warrant the expectation of its being granted by the Imperial Government, because this Province was induced to make the loans referred to for the construction of railways on the invitation of Her Majesty's Government, as the following Despatches clearly point out:—On the 1st April 1857, Lord Grey intimated to Lord Elgin, "that Her Majesty's servants will not be slow to propose, nor, judging "from the opinions generally expressed, would Parliament be slow to sanction the employment of the "pecuniary resources of Great Britain, in furtherance of the construction of railways and canals for "the purpose of promoting immigration and colonization in British North America." On the 14th March 1851, in a Despatch from Lord Grey to the Earl of Elgin, is enclosed a letter from Mr. Under-Secretary Hawes to Joseph Howe, Esq., dated 10th March 1851, wherein it is stated "that Her "Majesty's Government were prepared to recommend to Parliament to give the guarantee of the "Imperial credit to a loan for the construction of the proposed line of railway from Halifax to Quebec "or Montreal, or to advance the funds required out of the British Treasury upon certain stipulated condi-"tions." The Despatch of the Right Hon. Sir John Pakington to the Earl of Elgin, 20th May 1852, leads to the same encouragement, viz.:—That Her Majesty's Government are anxious to act with the most perfect good faith towards the Legislature and people of the British American Provinces, and to fulfil every just expectation that may have been held out by their predecessors. The Committee, reposing every confidence in the willingness of Her Majesty's Government to fulfil the just expectations held out to Her faithful subjects, entertain no doubt but that the Imperial Parliament will extend the guarantee of the nation to loan this Province her credit, which is about three per cent., for a limited period, upon the express condition that it be used for no other purpose than in reducing the public debt, by purchasing up Provincial and Municipal Debentures bearing six per cent., and, with this difference between Imperial and Provincial credit, creating a Sinking Fund with which the principal of the loan can be paid off within 18 years. which would be effected without the imposition of any tax on Her Majesty's subjects, either in England or here. It will be the means of improving public credit, and will enable the Government hereafter to obtain loans at the lowest rates of interest, for the redemption of the remainder of the Provincial debt. Your Committee would therefore recommend to the favourable consideration of the Government the moving of a joint Address to Her Majesty, praying that she may be pleased to propose to Her Imperial Parliament the granting of a loan to the Provincial Government of 5,000,000*l.*, payable in twenty years, for the above purpose.

(*No. 3. On the Commercial Policy of Great Britain, Canada, and the United States.*)

13. Your Committee have examined into the colonial commercial policy of Great Britain and Canada, also the commercial policy of the United States, the treaties and different acts under which that policy is enforced, and the results produced. In 1846, under the provisions of the Imperial Act 9 & 10 Vict., chap. 22., entitled "An Act to amend the Laws relating to the Importation of Corn," the productions of the United States were admitted into the markets of Great Britain upon the same terms as those of Canada, while no provision was made by the Imperial Government with the Government of the United States to admit the productions of Canada into their markets upon similar terms. The effect of this law was to depreciate the value of all articles grown or produced in Canada 20 per cent. under the value of like articles grown or produced in the United States, and this difference in value continued up to the year 1854, a period of nearly nine years. During that year the Imperial Act 9 & 10 Vict., cap. 94., entitled "An Act to enable certain British Possessions to reduce or repeal "certain Customs Duties," became law, after nine years of continued application, public attention having been first drawn to the subject in the Legislative Assembly of Canada in 1837. In 1847, in deference to the opinions expressed in the Despatch of the 24th May 1843, under the Act of 1846, 9 & 10 Vict. cap. 94., duties on American manufactures were reduced from 12½ to 7½ per cent., and increased on British manufactures from 5 to 7½ per cent. The effect of this Act being to remove all

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discriminating duties against the United States. In 1849 the Provincial Legislature passed an Act [12 Vict. cap. 3.] authorizing the removal of duties on all articles being the growth or production of the United States, upon condition that the United States should pass a similar law. Up to this period the Legislature of Canada carried out the colonial commercial policy of Great Britain to the letter.

14. In 1854 the Reciprocity Treaty (which emanated from an Address of the House of Assembly in 1846) came into operation. By reference to the evidence of Mr. Wilkins, British Consul, Chicago; Mr. Worthington, Inspector of Ports for Upper Canada and others, appended hereto, [See App. Nos. 1 and 8,] it appears that the spirit and intention of the Reciprocity Treaty is being evaded. Under article third of this treaty the high contracting parties agree that the articles enumerated, being the growth and produce of the colonies, or the United States, shall be mutually admitted free of duty; grain, flour, and breadstuffs of all kinds being the principal articles named. In the Provincial Act of 1849 the words "growth or produce of either country" were inserted, but in the 3rd article of the treaty the word "and" was substituted for "or." This change was doubtless unintentional, but under the Customs regulations of the Treasury of the United States this portion of the treaty is interpreted to exclude flour and breadstuffs ground in Canada, from grain grown in the United States. As an illustration of this construction, although peas, as well as grain of all kinds ground in Canada, are admitted free, when split they become liable to duty. [See App. No. 9]. In article fourth the United States Government engages to urge upon the State Governments to secure to the subjects of Her Britannic Majesty the use of the several State canals on terms of equality with the inhabitants of the United States, proving clearly that unreserved reciprocity in its broadest sense was intended, and that no further restrictions were meant to be imposed on the articles named, or in the vessels carrying them between the two countries, than between separate States of the Union, and in that spirit have all the productions of the United States been received in this province. That it was so understood by the Treasury of the United States on the 12th February last is manifest from the instructions of the Treasury to the different Officers of Customs. [See Report of British Consul, App. A, page 41.] Your Committee therefore believe that on a clear representation of the facts being made to the Government of the United States, these restrictions will be removed.

15. They also beg to call the attention of the Provincial Government to the operation of the amended Customs Act of 1853. The 6th clause of the Act 12 Vict., cap. 1., enacts, "That in all cases where "any duty is or shall be imposed on any goods imported into this province ad valorem, or according to "the value thereof, such value shall be understood to be the actual cash value thereof in the principal "markets in the country where the same were purchased, and whence they were exported to this "province." The 3rd clause of the Act 16 Vict. cap. 85. (April 1853), repeals the above clause, and enacts, "That in all cases where any duty is or shall be imposed on any goods imported into this "province ad valorem, or according to the value of such goods, such value shall be understood to be "the fair market value thereof in the principal markets of the country, whence the same were exported "directly to this province." Under the operation of the Act of 1849 a brisk trade sprang up between Halifax and Canada; under the operation of the Act of 1853 this trade was abandoned and transferred to New York.

16. On the 13th October 1854 a Committee of 12 Members of the Legislative Assembly was appointed to inquire into the commercial intercourse between Canada and Great Britain, North American Colonies, British West India Islands, the United States, and other foreign countries. After a laborious investigation on the 29th May 1855 they reported upon the results produced, which your Committee recommend to the careful consideration of the Imperial and Provincial Governments. From a close examination of the effects resulting from the existing commercial policy of Great Britain, Canada, and the United States, since the above report, your Committee find the trade of the province still remains practically under the control of the Government of the United States.

Your Committee therefore earnestly recommend:—

1st. That the despatch of 1843 be withdrawn, leaving the Legislature to regulate the duties on imports as heretofore under the Act of 1846, without restriction; also that an Address be presented to Her Majesty, representing the evasion of the Reciprocity Treaty, and praying that a negotiation with the Government of the United States may be entered into for the removal of all restrictions under the said treaty.

2nd. They also recommend the removal of all duties on the productions of the British possessions in America, so that precisely the same principle as exists in the intercourse between the different States of the American Union may be established in these Colonies.

3rd. That the principle of reciprocity with the United States be extended to manufactures, the registration of Canadian and United States built vessels, and to the shipping and coasting trade, in the same manner as to the productions of the soil.

4th. That the mode of imposing duties on imports, under the Act 12 Vict. cap. 1, sec. 6, be restored, leaving the consumer in the Western States and Canada subject to no greater duty, viâ the St. Lawrence, than by New York, and that the St. Lawrence Canals be immediately deepened, to admit vessels of the same draft of water as those which pass through the Welland Canal.

The whole, nevertheless, humbly submitted.

WM. HAMILTON MERRITT,
Chairman.

Committee Room, Legislative Assembly,
27th July 1858.

APPENDIX A.

No. 1.

To the Hon. W. H. MERRITT, M. P. P., Chairman of the Committee to inquire into the Home and Foreign Trade, Legislative Assemby, Toronto, C. W.

British Consulate,
Chicago, July 6th, 1858.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward my reply to your request that I should transmit to you—

1. A statement of the course of trade between Chicago and Great Britain, shewing what portion goes to New York and what portion to Quebec.
2. What are the relative advantages in the coasting trade to American and Canadian ships?
3. What are the relative amounts of exports and imports by the canals and railways through the United States and the same through Canada?
4. In what manner the existing Treaties or Acts of the respective countries affect the present trade?
5. What remedies are required to place them on an equal footing?

1. *Course of Trade between Chicago and Great Britain.*

It must be understood that although a large amount of transatlanic merchandize ultimately finds a consuming market in the regions west of Lake Michigan, and the productions of the western states are distinctively quoted in European markets, nevertheless Lake Michigan ports cannot be said to have any direct trade with transatlantic countries.

The direct relations between European merchants and those of the western states of the Union are of a desultory and unimportant character.

Both as regards exports and imports, the direct trade of Lake Michigan is at present with markets to its eastward, through to the Atlantic seaboard, and no farther.

As regards the statistics bearing on the trade on the inland lakes, it must be remarked that they are not so exact or so satisfactorily arranged as their importance demands. Mr. Guthrie, the Secretary of the Treasury Department of the United States, in his annual report for the year 1856, says, "We have no data to ascertain the annual number of persons or the annual tons of freight carried in our coasting trade, nor the value thereof."

Regulations to remedy this are from time to time being instituted. The annexed tables are, however, sufficient approximations to warrant the deductions made from them, and as regards the trade from this port with Canada, are substantially correct.

The following tables are annexed:—

1. Total imports and exports received and shipped by rail and lake respectively, at port of Chicago, during 1857.
2. Analytical table shewing shipments from Chicago to British Provinces in British and American vessels.
3. Shewing trade in British vessels for four years.

It seems to be generally considered, that the effect of resent legislation of both countries, and the Reciprocity Treaty of June 5, 1854, has been to divert a great portion both of the import and export trade of Upper Canada across Lakes Ontario and Erie, which previously had its entrance and exit by the St. Lawrence River, to the prejudice of the forwarding and other interests, of Lower Canada, and to the benefit of New York State.

On the other hand, cereals and provisions from the United States bordering on Lakes Erie and Michigan now find their way down the St. Lawrence, to Montreal and Quebec. See Table 2.

The only imports to this lake, by way of the St. Lawrence River, worth notice in the proposed comparison, are railway iron and foreign salt. For various reasons, I think that these will never materially increase in quantity, even if they ever again reach the amount of former years.

For the last four years no railway iron has reached Chicago in British vessels.

It is in the trade with the western states that the equivalent for the diversion of Upper Canada trade from the St. Lawrence across the lakes should be found.

Whether this equivalent has been found, and under the existing international relations ever would be found, may be judged of by the comparisons and remarks following.

2. *Relative advantages to Canadian and American Vessels.*

Table 1. shews No. of tons shipped by lake from Chicago in 1857 - 507,600 tons.
Table 2. Shipment of same to Canada in British and American vessels:

British - - - - - - -	23,454	
American - - - - - - -	32,855	
		56,309
		451,291

Thus only one ninth could have been shipped in British vessels; actually less than one twentieth was. A strong inducement to Canadian purchasers to ship in American vessels, is, that cargoes afloat can be ordered either to American or Canadian markets, on arriving at the Welland Canal. Shipments in Canadian vessels must be discharged at a British port, and cannot be reshipped to the United States

under the Reciprocity Treaty. (See Appendix A. Remarks on Navigation Laws and Treasury Circular of 12 February 1858, requiring Consular certificates of the origin of shipments from Canada to the United States.)

In these remarks Chicago has been made the basis of comparison.

By taking imports and exports from Milwaukie, Racine, and Kenosha, on this lake, although no statistics are before me, my knowledge of the trade warrants the assertion that by including the trade with these points the comparison would be increased in favour of the United States.

Imports.

Table 1. shews receipts by lake during year 1857 - -	1,316,355 tons.
Table 3. shews imports in British vessels, which, reduced to tons, gives about - - - - - - - -	19,28
	1,297,074

As regards Table 1., which, for the reason stated above, is scarcely more than an estimate, it must be remarked that of the total receipts 739,000 tons are of lumber, a very large proportion of which was from the United States shores of St. Clare River, Lakes Huron and Michigan, and 134,000 tons of coals from Cleveland.

Probably some 200,000 tons were carried from Buffalo and points east of the Welland Canal, consisting of general merchandise of home and foreign production.

Table 3., which can be relied on, shows the quantity imported in British vessels in the aggregate about 19,000.

Carrying Trade across Lakes Erie and Ontario.

I have no means of estimating the proportion of the carrying trade across Lakes Ontario and Erie in Canadian and American vessels.

The impression I find entertained is, that it is largely in favour of American vessels.

The table, p. 204, in the Trade and Navigation Returns (Canada) for 1856, does not determine this but taking the totals of the entries inwards and outwards given in that table, it appears that the Americans are $\frac{5}{12}$ of the whole.

The table appears to include the coasting trade, which must be done in British vessels.

This result certainly points to the conclusion, either that the proportion of the coasting trade is very small, or that the larger share of the international trade is done by American vessels. If this be the case it would seem that by the operation of the existing laws and treaty the shipping of Canada competes unsuccessfully with that of the United States in the trade across the Lakes; and that in the anticipated equivalent to be found in the trade with the Western States (taking this port as a basis), the United States vessels engross all but a trifling portion of the carrying trade westward; and in the eastward trade the one-ninth, which could lawfully be done by British vessels, was last year shared nearly equally by American. The restrictions against American vessels carrying Canadian produce coastwise, so far as regards timber and staves from the St. Clare River and Lake Erie is, I am informed, evaded by shipping to French Creek (Clayton), and then rafting to Quebec, which would seem to be as much an evasion of the British Navigation Laws and breach of the Reciprocity Treaty as carrying wheat from Chicago to Kingston in a British vessel, and transhipping it to Ogdensburgh or Oswego. See Appendix A. I have no personal knowledge on this matter, but am told that contracts have this year been made by Americans to carry timber and staves in the way described.

This trade is a very desirable one to British vessels, and several masters of vessels have spoken to me about it. See fol. 42.

Again, is any Canadian produce manufactured in the United States and reshipped to Canada, *e. g.*, Canadian wheat floured at Oswega to Montreal.

Relative Amounts of Exports and Imports by Rail and Canal.

3. What are the relative Amounts of Exports and Imports by the Canals and Railways through the United States, and the same through Canada? On this point my observations would be of no value.

I beg to refer your Committee to the annexed tables, Nos. 1 and 5, furnished me by J. McAlpine, Esq., and to that gentleman's reports on the canals of New York for the years 1852 and 1853. I have his permission to state, that five years' subsequent experience have confirmed him in the conclusions then arrived at.

With regard to the shipments from Chicago by railway eastward, it may be stated that the most of the articles of hog's lard, pork, and flour, which constitute a large portion of the whole, are shipped by railway during the close of navigation.

The subject of your inquiry has been further discussed in the report of Messrs. Childe, McAlpine, and Kirkwood, C.E., on the trade and navigation of the St. Lawrence, which is probably before your Committee.

In this connexion I would make two remarks,—

1st. That in such articles as pork, flour, lard, &c. the trade with Main and other Eastern states, during the winter months, by the Grand Trunk Railway cannot, under the present construction of the Reciprocity Treaty, be done, except by sending articles through in bond to the United States line. They cannot be carried to Montreal and resold to enter the United States under the Reciprocity Treaty. See Appendix A.

2d. That, until a trade in general merchandise between the Canadian seaboard and the Western States is established, the Grand Trunk traffic for the Western States will be little more than passengers and express parcels.

[See Appendix B. Remarks on United States Tariff Laws as impeding growth of trade between Montreal and Chicago.]

4. Manner in which Acts or Treaties of respective Countries affect the present Trade.

1st. United States laws and construction of treaties:

Even if direct commercial relations with Great Britain were established, the following regulations must be complied with to entitle the merchandise passing through Canada in bond to be entered at a United States lake port on the same terms as at New York.

See Appendix B.

1. It must appear by the invoice they were intended for a particular port.
2. Their identity must be traced by affidavit of transhipper.
3. Ownership must not have changed in Canada.
4. The continuity of the voyage must not be broken for an unreasonable time; and,
5. The whole amount named in the invoice must be forwarded for entry.

Though in theory these appear simple, yet in practice they all give rise to inconveniences, and would certainly check the growth of a trade which can be done by other channels free from any restrictions.

2d. The construction of the United States tariff laws, which prevents merchants at Montreal and Quebec for competing for trade of the Western States in general merchandize of foreign productions and manufacture, whilst New York can compete in various articles with Montreal and Quebec in Western Canada.

See Appendix B.

I would respectfully call the attention of your Committee to the decision of the United States Supreme Court, mentioned therein.

Last year I obtained a portion of a consignment of castor oil, imported into Montreal from Calcutta, and offered it for entry here at the value in Great Britain. In the face of that decision, the only objection offered was, that it must be accompanied by an invoice from Montreal, and that if the invoice showed a higher value than the markets of Great Britain the duty must be assessed on the value of the invoice.

This was not clear, however, and the article was entered during my absence at the London price, on the understanding that it was not to be considered a precedent.

If, in the view of your Committee, taking into consideration the yearly increasing connexion between the provinces and the Western States of the Union, a trade such as is indicated in Appendix B is likely to ensue were these tariff difficulties removed. I beg to suggest that a case be carried to the Supreme Court at Washington for decision there.

This course has the advantage over applying for the action of the United States Federal Legislature in this, that the Western States of the Union would be in favor of opening up a new purchasing market for foreign merchandise, and in the event of the Supreme Court of the United States deciding that the existing laws permit such trade, the rival interests of New York and Boston would find as great difficulties in getting this privilege to the Western States interfered with as Canada and the Western States combined would meet with in obtaining an alteration of existing laws.

The case would have been tested before had the amounts involved been sufficiently large.

3rdly. The construction of the Reciprocity Treaty by which western cereals and provisions shipped to Canada cannot be re-shipped to the United States. See Appendix A.

4. The Navigation Laws of the United States.

The importance of obtaining an alteration in the policy of the United States Government on these questions as regards the trade of the inland lakes is shewn by the results of the present trade, and as regards the future its significance may be illustrated thus:—

In the event of a ship canal connecting the St. Lawrence with Lake Champlain being made, and a route to New York without any transhipment for the produce of the Western States being opened up, all this trade must be done in American vessels, so long as the United States laws requires that "No "goods shall be imported under penalty of forfeiture thereof from one port in the United States to "another port of the United States in a vessel belonging wholly or in part to a subject of any foreign "power." Act of Congress, March 3rd 1817, sec. 4. See Appendix A, with Mr. Guthrie's remarks.

The United States laws do not admit foreign built vessels to registry. And further, even where the vessel is American and sold to a British owner will not allow a re-registry as an American vessel. An owner (who also is master) of one of the finest British sail vessels which trades with this port finding the difficulties his vessel laboured under in this trade, expressed his intention of becoming an American citizen and enrolling his vessel under the American flag. He found, however, that although he would have no difficulty in becoming a citizen himself he could not take his vessel with him.

Appendix C treats of the difference between the laws of Canada and the United States relating to inland shipping, and the uncertainty existing as to what laws govern the titles of the inland shipping of Canada.

Lastly. What Remedy is required to place the Trade on an equal Footing?

In the foregoing remarks my aim has been to shew the national disadvantages under which the

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province of Canada labours in her trade with the Western States, especially as regards the development of the advantages and position she possesses in her natural water communication wtth them.

On the extent of these advantages over the other routes to the Atlantic seaboard and Europe I have not touched.

These have been fully discussed in reports of able engineers and in the published remarks of practical merchants.

Indeed it has seemed to me that these have been too much relied on as alone sufficient for the development of the expected trade, whilst the national position and disadvantages have been too little considered.

The protective policy of the United States in her tariff and navigation laws, and her construction of the Reciprocity Treaty, foster the growth of her inland marine and preserve the trade with the Western States of the Union to her own channels, whilst in that portion of the carrying trade open to the Canadian vessel owner he has to meet the American in competition at all points with the exception of the coasting trade of Canada, and even a portion of that appears in practice to be divided.

The remedy lies in the action of the United States.

I am aware of the difficulties which presented themselves in former negociations previous to the conclusion of the Reciprocity Treaty, but it must be recollected that since those negociations took place the North-western States of the Union have immensely increased in national importance.

They have found a valuable customer in the province of Canada, and by the use of the Welland Canal established relations with their own ports in Lake Ontario which could not otherwise exist.

With the exception of the vessel interest, which is very small in comparison with others, I think that the whole of the North-western States would raise their voice for any fair concessions in international intercourse.

My own observations are necessarily local.

I shall be obliged for suggestions directing attention to any points which your Committee may consider of value.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. EDWARD WILKINS.

APPENDIX A.

REMARKS on Navigation Laws, and United States Treasury Circular of 12th February 1858, requiring Consular Certificates of the origin of Shipments from Canada to the United States.

THE construction of the Reciprocity Treaty by the United States Government, which appears to have been received with some surprise in Canada, has for two years past been acted on at this point with regard to the article of lumber.

Pine logs, the growth of the United States, were floated over to the Canadian shores from Michigan, and cut into lumber in such a way that had the logs been the growth of Canada the lumber would have been admitted free under the Reciprocity Treaty.

This was shipped from Canada to Chicago, and on entry here was charged with a duty of thirty per cent., on the ground that it was not entitled to a free entry as it was not the growth of Canada.

As regards the trade between the primary markets of the Western States and the distributing markets of Canada, of which Montreal is the chief, the practice of grinding into flour wheat brought from the Western States, in Montreal or St. Catharines, and sending it to the United States for sale, independently of the effect of diminishing the grist to the mills of the United States distributing markets of Buffalo, Rochester, Oswego, and Ogdensburgh, is probably considered as tending to an indirect violation of the 4th section of the Act of Congress of March 3rd 1817, intituled "An Act concerning "the Navigation of the United States," which enacts that "No goods, &c. shall be imported, under "penalty of forfeiture thereof, from one port in the United States to another port in the United States "in a vessel belonging wholly or in part to a subject of any foreign power,"—the basis of the system of "Coasting laws," especially referred to and advocated by Mr. Secretary Guthrie in his annual report for 1856, as follows:—

"The coasting trade of the United States has from the beginning been strictly reserved for vessels "built within the United States, to the exclusion of foreign built and foreign owned vessels." * *

In the protection given to our shipping interest there appears to have been but little division of sentiment from the earliest times to the present, whilst the yearly increase of our tonnage proves the wisdom of our laws in this particular.

Ever since the commencement of the trade the restrictions imposed on British vessels by this law have been found to place them at great disadvantage with United States vessels, and various attempts were made to establish the position that if a transhipment of the goods takes place in Canada, the United States law would not be infringed.

In some cases which arose in the autumn of 1856 the Treasury Department decided that this was an infringement of the law, and made seizures of some wheat belonging to a United States citizen, that had been shipped from Chicago to Ogdensburg in a British vessel, to be transhipped at Kingston, Canada West. The wheat was released on the ground that no fraud was intended.

During the season of 1857, as these views were well understood, nothing of the kind occurred at this point; and I did not notice any indication of further action on the part of the United States Government, until the issue of a Treasury circular dated 12th February last, requiring all shipments of

merchandise claiming to be entitled to free entry under the Reciprocity Treaty, to be accompanied by a Consular certificate "that it is the growth OR produce of the Province." *

By a Treasury Circular dated May 2nd 1855, these certificates had been dispensed with to obviate expense and inconvenience in the intercourse between the British Provinces and the United States under the Reciprocity Treaty.

The object of their renewal, by the circular of 12th February last, is, undoubtedly, to protect the manufacturing interests of the United States, and the carrying trade on their coasts to their own vessels, and in their own channel of commerce, as well as for statistical purposes.

It rests with the Canadian Government to decide whether it would be advisable to adopt a like course for similar reasons.

By reference to the tables forwarded herewith, it will be found that nearly one million bushels of wheat were shipped by vessel from this port alone to Kingston and Montreal during the year 1857.

A settlement of this matter is looked for with interest at this point, although I do not think the full effect of the action of the United States Government is generally comprehended, namely, that it will cut off the North-eastern States as markets for all kinds of produce of the Western States, which collect at Montreal, whether manufactured there or not. It is not because it is manufactured in Canada, but because the wheat is not grown there, that the article of flour is excluded from the terms of the treaty.

I have no means of estimating the extent to which the trade between this lake and Montreal will be prejudiced.

I am informed by a merchant engaged in this trade that the shipments of flour alone, for this year, already amount to forty thousand barrels to Montreal.

None of this can be resold to the United States, the supplies for which have been a considerable item in the trade.

In connexion with this subject it may be noted that one of the advantages of position of Montreal as a market for western produce is contained in the following extracts from the report of Messrs. Childe, McAlpine, and Kirkwood, on the trade and navigation of the St. Lawrence:—

"The value of such a water power (Montreal) is enhanced by being located in close contiguity to "the dense population along the the Atlantic, where the offal has the greatest value.

"A considerable portion of the surplus of the west is required for consumption in the manufacturing "districts of New England. * * The interior of New England can be supplied from Montreal "cheaper than from any other direction, and the monopoly of this trade may be counted upon as be- "longing to this route."

Under this construction, the mills must grind for home consumption and European export, not for the expected markets of Maine and Newhampshire.

J. E. W.

APPENDIX B.

On Tariff Laws of United States as they affect the Import Trade between Chicago and the Canadian Seaboard.

IN the short history of this trade the following fact is noticeable, that whilst the produce of the Western States have to a large extent found their ultimate markets in Great Britain, the amount of European productions imported by that route, and entered for duty at Chicago, though small in 1854, is less in 1855, and still less in 1856, shewing the only retrogade movement in the trade, with the exception of a small quantity of pig iron and salt (partly coarse Liverpool, and partly Mediterranean). The imports in British vessels are of the provincial productions of lumber and fish.

It was confidently hoped that the result as regards the import trade would have been different, but independently of other reasons, the growth of this trade has been materially checked by a lukewarmness produced amongst merchants of both countries from the operation of the United States Tariff laws as enforced by the Customs authorities at this port under the direction of the United States Treasury Department.

No goods, the production of Great Britain or any foreign country, can be entered as direct importations at any United States port on these lakes (when brought by way of the St. Lawrence River), unless the following regulations are complied with:—

1st. It must appear they were intended for a particular port.

2nd. Their indentity must be traced by affidavit of transhipper.

3rd. Ownership must not have changed in Canada.

4th. The continuity of the voyage must not be broken for an unreasonable time; and,

5th. The whole amount named in the invoice must be forwarded for entry.

If these regulations be not complied with, it is insisted that the "goods are liable to be assessed on "their wholesale value in the principal markets in Canada at the period of their exportation therefrom." Hence, a merchant in Cleveland, Cincinnati, Toledo, Detroit, Milwaukee, or Chicago, six cities, with an aggregate population of 400,000, cannot buy any goods in bond in Montreal or other Canadian market without paying duty on the market value of the article in Canada, whereas, in the markets on the United States seaboard, all articles can be purchased in bond, subject to an ad valorem duty on their value in the principal markets of the countries whence last imported.

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* The words of the treaty are "growth AND produce." In the form adopted by the United States Treasury Circular, the words "growth OR produce" are used.

CANADA.

This disadvantage is the more remarked, as the United States markets have of late attracted the trade of Western Canada from its own seaboard.

Were this tariff prohibition removed, and the Canadian seaboard markets placed on the same footing as those of New York and Boston, it is thought that the wholesale merchants in Canada could successfully cultivate relations with the western cities above named, which would justify them in increasing their yearly stock of imports, and that they could bid for a share of the western trade by cheaper rates of freight and quicker despatch in forwarding the merchandise. The completion of the Grand Trunk Railway perfects the link of railway communication between the Western States and the Canadian seaboard.

I have endeavoured to investigate the real state of the United States tariff laws on this point, and find that the remarks on the state of these revenue laws by Mr. Secretary Guthrie in his annual Treasury Report are very pertinent; they are as follows:—

"The revenue laws consist of various Acts of Congress commencing with the organization of the "Government, with so many amending, repealing, and conflicting provisions that it is difficult to ascer- "tain what is in force, consequently what is the law upon any particular point." A case materially bearing on this subject has been recently reported in the Supreme Court of the United States at Washington. By that case (Stairs v. Peaselee, 18 Howard Reports,) it was decided that merchandise, a production of the East Indies only, which was shipped and invoiced from Halifax in Nova Scotia to Boston, United States, must be assessed according to its value in the principal markets of the British dominions. That it was for the merchant appraisers to decide what these markets were, and that they did right in appraising them at their value in London and Liverpool as the principal markets in Great Britain, and not at Halifax, from which they were brought into the United States.

Also, that the word "country" used in this connexion embraces all the possessions of a foreign state, however widely separated, which are subject to the same supreme executive and legislative control.

In this case the value at Halifax was less than that in London and Liverpool.

The principle laid down by Chief Justice Taney in his judgment would seem to cover the converse where goods shipped and invoiced to United States from any port within the British provinces have a higher value than in the principal wholesale market of the British dominions.

Now following this construction, the duty on such articles as pig, bar, railway iron, crockery, hardware, salt, various manufactures, ale, beer, &c., should be assessed on their value in the largest wholesale market within the British dominions, as Glasgow, Staffordshire, Liverpool, Cardiff, Sheffield, Manchester, Leeds, London, and certainly not on their value in the limited markets of Quebec or Montreal.

The Western States of the Union would favour any measure which would promote commercial intercourse with the British provinces.

Opposition, on the other hand, would be met with in New York.

It must be borne in mind that the navigation of the Welland Canal (British owned) by American vessels has permitted a very extensive carrying trade between New York and Boston, and the Western States by way of the United States lake ports of Ogdensburgh and Oswego to be built up, which could not exist without the use of this canal.

Nevertheless, British provincial vessels are excluded from any share of this carrying trade by the operation of the United States coasting laws, and the growth of a similar trade from the British seaboard beyond the provincial boundaries westward is checked as above described.

APPENDIX C.

On the difference between the Laws of Canada and the United States, relating to Inland Shipping, &c. &c.

There are many matters relating to the British mercantile marine on the inland water which are not generally understood.

I have been occasionally applied to for advice in matters of title; and here the question has arisen, how far the Imperial Acts are intended to apply to shipping wholly employed in the inland navigation.

I have found that a diversity of opinion was entertained upon this subject.

In a recent case, Sir John Robinson, the Chief Justice of Upper Canada, in delivering judgment, says on this point:

"It is indeed not as clear as it might have been made whether the statute of 8 and 9 Vict. c. 89., "was intended to apply to shipping wholly employed in the inland navigation of our lakes and rivers; "but the 20th clause of the 12th and 13th Vict. c. 29, seems to assume that it was so intended, and it "appears to have been so understood by our Legislature."

The above decision also refers to the second part of the Merchants' Shipping Act of 1854, relating to British ships, their ownership, measurement, and registry, which applies to the whole of Her Majesty's dominions.

In the marginal remarks to Return No. 1 or 1856, I mentioned certain inconveniences to which British vessels trading with this lake (Michigan) were subject. These have existed during the past season, and with this addition, that British vessels have been libelled in the United States courts at this and other ports for claims alleged to be due, accruing in Canada, and in some cases from former owners. Of such cases I will speak more fully in treating of the conflict existing between the laws of the British provinces and the United States regulating their inland shipping. During the two years of my residence here the settlement of differences between "masters and seamen" has been a subject of considerable difficulty.

It is admitted that such questions are much embarrassed by the absence of any colonial enactments bearing thereon; and by the jurisdiction assumed in such cases by the United States courts, until the last few years, the trade in "British Plantation Vessels" was confined either to their own coasts or to short voyages of a few days' duration between the British ports and those on the United States shores of Lake Ontario. This last season from 120 to 140 voyages have been made from British ports on Lake Ontario to Chicago, Milwaukee, and Racine on Lake Michigan, a distance of over 1,200 miles each way, each voyage occupying about six weeks, and the average complement of each vessel being ten sailors.

I cannot give a correct estimate of the like voyages made to the American ports of Buffalo, Cleveland, Toledo, and Detroit, on Lake Erie; but the number must be very considerable. As far as I can ascertain, there is no colonial provision requiring agreements with seamen to be made in writing, such as is enjoined in Section 149 of the Merchants' Shipping Act, 1854, in foreign-going vessels in the United Kingdom, but the same laws which relate to masters and servants, regulate the relations between masters and seamen; that is, a parol hiring is sufficient. The terms and duration of service, where no special agreement is made, being controlled by custom.

This trade is of such a recent date that no custom has been established. I believe, in the majority of instances the engagements are intended to last from Lake Ontario to Lake Michican and back, embracing a period of about six weeks. The consequence is, that, on arrival at a foreign port, disputes arise as to the nature of the contract.

I have know as many as eleven libels or attachments on British vessels in one day issued by Courts of various degrees in this port. By the United States laws, agreements between masters and seamen are required to be in writing in all voyages between one State and another on the inland waters, laying the master under penalty for default; and, in the absence of such agreement, the seaman's testimony is received and wages allowed for services actually performed. In a trade where navigation is closed for five months in the year, despatch to vessels is of the utmost consequence, and masters frequently elect to pay the demands and ship fresh men even at higher rates, than to be subjected to delay and litigation. I have often attended on the trial of these cases in some of the inferior courts, and pointed out the state of the laws regulating these matters in the British provinces, and contended that, even admitting the jurisdiction, the question should be decided in uniformity with the laws of the country to which the vessel belonged, and where the contract was made, and on similar evidence.

I am confident that these difficulties would be materially abated and justice more often satisfied by an adaptation of those sections of the "Merchants' Shipping Act, 1854," relating to engagements with the crew to such British colonial vessel. Sections 288, 290, of that Act seem to have been framed in view of such a case.

These circumstances make the application of the "Merchants' Shipping Act, 1854," by Her Majesty's Consuls in these lakes somewhat difficult, *e. g.*, that part of Section 109 relating to provisions applicable to colonial ships is stated to apply to all ships registered in any of Her Majesty's dominions abroad where any of such ships are out of the jurisdiction of their respective governments, and to the owners, masters, and crews of ships.

Amongst the cases there named are:—

First, rights to wages and remedies for the recovery thereof.

Second, shipping and discharge of seamen in foreign ports.

Third, to leaving seamen abroad.

Fourth, relief of seamen in distress in foreign ports.

As to remedies and wages I have spoken above. Section 160 enacts, that all seamen shall be shipped and discharged in a foreign port before the Consul under a penalty for neglect.

With the exception of that of the "Madeira Pet," the only British foreign-going ship which has ever arrived here, this has in no case been done.

I have pointed out the provision to the masters of vessels, but under existing circumstances have not deemed it advisable to endeavour to force it, for although it would seem to be in conformity with the wording of the Act and with the practice which I understand exists regarding colonial vessels trading with the seaboard ports of Boston and New York, yet the fact of part of the crew being shipped under articles from Chicago, and the remainder under a parol engagement from a Canadian port, appears incongruous and contrary to the spirit (though not to the letter) of the proviso contained in Section 149. Moreover, in the establishment of this consulate I have been unwilling to impose any duties which might appear in the light of burdens on the shipping interest, unless clearly defined by the laws, either British or American.

The subject of the relief of seamen in distress ranks properly in this connexion.

CANADA.

In close connexion with the foregoing there is a subject well worthy of examination, viz. :—The difference in the laws and legal procedure regulating the British and American maritime interests on the inland lakes and the consequence of such difference.

In the British provinces the admiralty jurisdiction does not extend above tide water, and consequently as there is no court of admiralty, or other court competent to give a remedy (in rem.) against the vessels, the proceedings both arising out the contracts on account of the vessels, and from wrongs committed by them, is only by personal suit against the owners.

In the United States, however, an admiralty jurisdiction on the inland lakes has from the earliest times been recognized, and in 1845 Congress enacted:—

"That the district courts have the same jurisdiction in matters of contract and fort concerning steamboats and other vessels of twenty tons burthen and upwards, enrolled and licensed for the coasting trade and employed in business of commerce and anvigation between ports and places in different states and territories upon the lakes and navigable waters connecting said lakes, and is now exercised and possessed by the said courts in cases of like steamboats and other vessels employed in navigation and commerce upon the high seas or tide waters within the admiralty and maritime jurisdiction of the United States. The maritime laws of the United States, as far as the same is or may be applicable thereto, shall constitute the rule of decision in such suits, in the same manner and to the same extent, and with the same equities as it now does in cases of admiralty and maritime jurisdiction with the saving of the rights of trial by jury, and of a concurrent remedy at common law in competent cases."

And in 1851 the Supreme Court of the United States decided that the admiralty and maritime jurisdiction granted to the Federal Government by the constitution of the United States is not limited to tide waters but extends to all public navigable lakes and rivers where commerce is carried on between different states or with a foreign nation. Propeller "Genessee Chief" vs. Fitz Hugh et al, 12 Howard U. S. Rep. 443. In delivering judgment in this case, Chief Justice Taney discussed at length the policy of extending admiralty jurisdtction to inland waters.

Thus, in the United States claims can be enforced in admiralty with or without a jury against the vessel itself, or at common law by personal suit against the owner at election of the plaintiff, whilst in the British provinces the latter remedy only is available.

It is only natural that United States citizens should prefer their own courts where the choice lies with them, but proceedings against British vessels in the United States admiralty courts are becoming frequent where the subject matter of litigation, the evidence and the parties to the suit are all within the jurisdiction of the British Provincial Courts.

For example, in cases of contracts for work, materials, supplies, etc., for which in Canada the contracting parties alone are liable, it has happened that in event of disputes or insolvency opportunity has been watched of libelling the vessel in a foreign port.

In some of these cases the vessel had charged owners subject to the dates of the claims.

Also where a collision take place between two British vessels, the only remedy in Canada is against the owner of the vessel in default.

The United States laws offer the additional remedy by suit in admiralty against the ship.

Again, where an American vessel is in default in a collision or injury done to British ships, the only remedy in the provincial courts is by personal suit against the owners, who probably do not reside within the jurisdiction.

It is unnecessary for me to enter further into detail here. I am not aware whether this subject has had the attention either of the Imperial or Provincial Governments, but have considered it my duty to state the evils which experience has shown me do exist, and to endeavour to point out some of the causes. For, even supposing the most friendly relations to exist between the two countries, and admitting that there is no reason why the one should be afraid to trust to the equity of the courts of the others, it is submitted that inconveniences and confusion must necessarily result where an admiralty procedure under a maritime code is recognized by the one only, especially where the two flags meet in waters British or American, or common to both.

Should admiralty jurisdiction be extended above tide water, I would suggest that legislation thereon should be as much in uniformity with the Federal Laws of the United States now in force as circumstances permit, unless there are strong reasons to the contrary.

The conflict between the laws of the different States of the American Union, where such exists is fuel to the fire of litigation.

In the above statement I have not given any instances in detail, but I do not think it is asserting too much to say that each port in the British provinces to which a vessel engaged in this trade belongs can furnish some evidence in corroboration.

J. E. W.

No. 2.

COMPARATIVE ANALYTICAL TABLE, showing Exports from Chicago, U. S., to Great Britain and British Provinces, for the year ending 31 December 1857, in British and American vessels.

—	Wheat.	Corn.	Oats.	Pork.	Flour.	Tallow.	Lard.	Sundries.
	Bus. of 60 lbs.	Bus. of 56 lbs.	Bus. of 32 lbs.	Barrels.	Barrels.	Lbs.	Lbs.	
British, Collingwood, C. W.	32,742	20,621	4,031	107	—	—	—	
American do. do.	16,364	7,803	—	537	414	9,250	3,050	4,000 lbs. hams, 6,000 lbs. shoulders, 2 firkins butter, 2 bbls. beans.
British, Port Stanley, do.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
American do. do.	5,309	8,548	4,003	—	—	—	—	27,242 lbs. dried sides.
British, Welland, do.	16,135	—	—	—	200	—	—	
American do, do.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
British, Thorold, do.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
American do. do.	5,000	9,000	—	—	—	—	—	7 bls. beef, 10 bls. mutton hams, 8 bls. pigs' tongues, ½ bl. herring.
British, St. Catherines, do.	90,577	21,787	—	100	—	—	—	34 hams, 27 sides.
American do. do.	122,015	—	—	—	—	—	—	
British, Wellington Square, do.	12,500	—	—	—	—	—	—	
American do. do.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7 hhds. meat.
British, Hamilton, do.	—	10,000	7,522	60	150	—	—	
American do. do.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
British, Toronto, do.	—	51,042	—	8	—	—	—	9 bus. beans.
American do. do.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
British, Port Hope, do.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
American do. do.	13,137	—	—	—	—	—	—	
British, Cobourg, do.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
American do. do.	—	10,240	—	—	—	—	—	
British, Kingston, do.	225,655	110,220	—	213	628	8,100	—	400 bags.
American do. do.	585,245	217,855	—	810	1,055	30,000	—	
British, Montreal, C. E.	131,187	20,000	—	500	8,978	24,150	—	17½ tons brown corn, 1 shingle machine, 400 bags, 26 bdls. hemp.
American do. do.	40,090	26,521	—	699	1,443	63,836	490,000	18 bags beans.
British, Quebec, do.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
American do. do.	10,000	—	—	—	580	10,500	—	
British, Liverpool, G. B.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3,648 hides.
								194 tons in British. $22\frac{562}{2000}$ in American.
British, total - - -	508,796	233,670	11,553	988	9,956	32,250	—	Total British in tons - - $23,454\frac{1708}{2000}$
American, total - - -	797,160	279,967	4,003	2,046	3,492	113,586	493,050	Total American in tons - $32,855\frac{292}{2000}$
Grand total - - - -	1,305,956	513,637	15,556	3,034	13,448	145,836	493,050	Grand total in tons - - $56,309\frac{1713}{2000}$
Totals reduced to tons { British	$15,263\frac{1760}{2000}$	$6,542\frac{1420}{2000}$	$184\frac{1605}{2000}$	$158\frac{160}{2000}$	$1,095\frac{320}{2000}$	$16\frac{250}{2000}$	—	} Difference in favour of
{ American	$23,914\frac{1800}{2000}$	$7,839\frac{152}{2000}$	$64\frac{395}{2000}$	$327\frac{720}{2000}$	$384\frac{240}{2000}$	$561\frac{1580}{2000}$	$246\frac{1050}{2000}$	} American - - $9,400\frac{300}{2000}$

No. 3.

COMPARATIVE TABLE, showing Number of British Vessels arrived at and departed from the Port of Chicago, U. S., from and for Great Britain and British Provinces, their tonnage, nature, and total value of cargoes for the years 1854, 1855, 1856, 1857.

ENTRIES.	1854.		1855.		1856.		1857.	
	Inwards.	Outwards.	Inwards.	Outwards.	Inwards.	Outwards.	Inwards.	Cutwards.
No. of vessels - - -	5	6	77	61	110	104	119	101
Tonnage - - -	1,193	1,482	16,619	13,000	26,700	25,472	29,389	24,103
Lumber - - in feet	—	—	7,209,494	—	17,225,658	—	15,443,984	—
Lath - - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	$1,949\frac{3}{10}$	—
Shingles - - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	592	—
Fuel wood - - in cords	—	—	$179\frac{1}{2}$	—	450	—	921	—
Fish - - - in brls.	—	—	1,402	—	—	—	144	—
Oil - - - „	—	—	70	—	—	—	—	—
Salt - - - in bus.	—	—	75,757	—	85,435	—	53,310	—
Pig iron - - in tons	1,053	—	818	—	355	—	446	—
Bar iron - - „	—	—	$167\frac{1}{2}$	—	—	—	$35\frac{1}{2}$	—
Peas - - - in bus.	—	—	100	—	—	—	—	—
Oatmeal - - in brls.	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	—
Wheat - - - in bus.	—	34,584	—	402,780	—	566,885	—	508,796
Corn - - - „	—	24,750	—	139,802	—	334,817	—	233,670
Oats - - - „	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	11,553
Pork - - - in brls.	—	1,647	—	6,091	—	6,818	—	988
Flour - - - „	—	—	—	2,633	—	5,810	—	9,956
Bacon - - - in lbs.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10,800
Hams - - - „	—	—	—	27,003	—	15,600	—	340
Hides - - - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3,648
Live hogs - - -	—	—	—	—	—	152	—	—
Tallow - - in lbs.	—	7,570	—	126,000	—	90,000	—	32,250
Lard - - - „	—	65,754	—	31,460	—	359,400	—	—
Hemp - - - „	—	50,000	—	—	—	—	—	26,000
Beef - - - „	—	—	—	2,271	—	—	—	56,000
Value in sterling - - £	5,178 2 6	16,429 7 6	28,856 6 8	173,922 1 8	47,140 3 7	203,186 15 1	40,384 1 3	183,389 0 4½
							19,281 tons	$23,454\frac{1708}{2000}$ tons

CANADA.

No. 4.

COMPARATIVE TABLE, showing the Export Trade from Chicago, U.S., to Great Britain and British Provinces, in British American Vessels, for the year ending 31st December 1857.

	Number of Vessels.	Tonnage.	Value of Cargoes.	Remarks.
American - -	83	26,522	£197,911 5*s.* 6*d.* sterling.	Tonnage United States measurement.
British - -	101	24,103	£183,309 0*s.* 4½*d.* „	Tonnage British measurement.

(APPENDIX A, No. 2.)

THE extent of trade diverted to the sea ports in the United States in 1856 was 6,183,433 against 594,755 tons to sea ports in Canada.

In that year 4,022,617 tons were transported on the Erie (boat) canal, against 976,656 tons on the Welland (ship) canal, of which 625,132 tons were to and from United States ports, against 351,524 tons to and from Canadian ports, leaving only 243,231 tons from Lake Ontario to make up the 594,755 tons passing up and down the St. Lawrence to the sea board through Canada.

The traffic on the New York Central Railways, leading to and from the Lakes was about two millions of tons. No return of the Grand Trunk railway is at hand to contrast the number of tons between Prescott and Montreal.

During the same year out of 634,536 tons transported on the St. Lawrence (steamboat) canals only 39,681, tons passed to and from the United States, near 400,000 tons consisted of wood, timber, earth, and minerals, leaving some 200,000 tons of merchandise, and the productions of agriculture, to and from the sea ports of Montreal and Quebec.

The comparative value of traffic on the New York canals was $218,326,362. The value through the canals in Canada is not given in the Trade and Navigation Return.

The return of toll on the New York canals was $2,748,212; on the Canadian canal $304,888, $266,420 for the Welland, and $77,720 for the St. Lawrence.—(Canal Commissioners Report, State N. Y., 1858, pages 14 and 231, and Trade and Navigation Returns 1856, page 218.)

(APPENDIX A, No. 3.)

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of the Number of Emigrants arrived at Quebec from the year 1844 to 1850, both inclusive.

WHENCE.	1844.	1845.	1846.	1847.	1848.	1849.	1850.
England and Wales - - -	7,698	8,833	9,163	28,725	6,034	8,980	9,887
Ireland - - - -	9,993	14,208	21,049	50,360	16,582	23,126	17,976
Scotland - - - - -	2,234	2,174	1,645	3,628	3,086	4,984	2,879
Lower Ports - - - -	217	160	—	—	842	968	701
	20,142	25,375	31,857	82,713	26,544	38,058	31,443
Countries of Europe - - -	—	—	896	7,437	1,395	436	849
Grand Total - -	20,142	25,375	32,753	90,150	27,939	38,494	32,292

A. C. BUCHANAN,
Chief Agent.

Government Emigration Office,
Quebec, 23 June 1858.

Letters from the Secretary of State referred to the Committee on Commerce, May 3, 1852, page 35, gives the number of emigrants arriving at New York in 1851 at 331,276.

W. E. GRIFFITH,
Clerk to Committee.

(APPENDIX A, No. 4.)

REPORT of Mr. MCALPINE, State Engineer and Surveyor, February 9, 1854.

IN an investigation of the comparative advantages of the several channels of communication between tne interior and the seaboard, charges cannot be relied upon, because they fluctuate on the various routes and on the different articles conveyed; competition reducing them to a minimum, and monopoly raising

them to a maximum. The cost, however, furnishes a more reliable basis, as the elements on which it depends are usually effected alike on the different routes.

The cost may be assumed at about two-thirds of the charges, and are as follows:—

TABLE of the Cost of Transport, per ton per mile.

Ocean long voyage	1 mill.
„ short „	2 to 4 mills.
Lakes, long „	2 „
„ short „	3 to 4 „
Rivers Hudson and of similar character	2, 5 „
„ St. Lawrence and Mississippi	3 „
„ Tributaries of Mississippi	5 to 10 „
Canals, Erie enlargement	4 „
„ Other large, but shorter	5 to 6 „
„ Ordinary size	5 „
„ „ „ with great lockage	6 to 8 „
Railroads transporting coal	6 to 10 „
„ not for coal, favourable lines and grades	12, 5 „
„ „ steep grades, &c.	15 to 20 „

Office of the Board of Trade,
Toronto, 21 June 1858.

Hon. W. H. MERRITT,

SIR,—In reply to the following series of questions put to me by the Clerk of the Committee on Home and Foreign Trade, I beg to submit the answers annexed:—

Question. As to what was the lowest price of wheat per ton and barrel of flour between Toronto and Quebec, by railway and canal for 1857?

Answer. Freights between Toronto and Quebec vary according to the kind of goods carried and the season, as for example, pig iron is frequently taken from Quebec in the dull season at a mere nominal rate, while other merchandise pays from 20*s.* @ 40*s.* ℔ ton; the average of goods would probable be about 25*s.* @ 27*s.* 6*d.*

1. Flour 1*s.* 6*d.* @ 1*s.* 9*d.* ℔ bbl., and wheat 7½*d.* ℔ bus. by river.
2. From Lake Erie to Quebec, flour 2*s.*, wheat 9*d.*
3. From Toronto to New York, flour 2*s.* 5*d.*, wheat 9*d.*

Having no certain knowledge of the railway freights, I cannot quote them, nor do I know the rate of ocean freights from Quebec, Boston, or Portland. Relative to the proportionate value of the trade of the Canadian and New York canals, there being no returns from the former, I am unable to give them, but the Erie canal brought to Buffalo merchandise to the value of $46,627,526, and took produce away, in value $16,956,740, amounting to 120,645 tons going east, and bringing up 76,316 tons of merchandise.

I may remark, that freights this year are about twenty per cent. lower than last year, both in the States and Canada.

I have, &c.
CHAS. ROBINSON, Secretary.

Toronto, 29 June 1858.

SIR,

IN reply to your inquiries for sundry statistics connected with the Canadian home and foreign trade, I herewith enclose the necessary replies in a tabnlar form, with a few remarks in reference to this important subject.

I would have answered the communication sooner, but having been engaged in preparing a report on other matters required by the Committee on Public Accounts, I was unable to give immediate attention to your communication of the 17th inst.

According to the Canal Commissioners Report for the State of New York for 1857, more than 4,000,000 tons of merchandise passed upwards and downwards in 1856, whereas the amount of tonnage, including 715,000 tonnage passenger steamers that passed through the St. Lawrence Canals in the same year was not 1,500,000, or about two-thirds less than the Erie Canal. The trade and navigation returns for this year indicate a decrease of about 65,000 tons.

For further information and the latest statistics I would refer the Hon. Chairman to my letter of 1857, addressed to John B. Robinson, Esq., M.P.P., and the reports on the Toronto and Georgian Bay Ship Canal, recently published.

I have, &c.
KIVAS TULLY, Civil Engineer.

W. E. Griffith, Esq.,
Clerk to the Committee on Home and Foreign
Trade, Toronto.

CANADA.

STATEMENT of the relative Capacity, Cost of Transportation, &c. by Quebec and New York to LIVERPOOL.

ST. LAWRENCE CANALS.

Length.	With at Water Line.	Depth.	Remarks.
68½ miles.	120 feet; Cornwall, 150 feet.	10 feet.	See Board of Works Report, 1857.

Dimensions of the Locks.

Length between Gates.	Width.	Depth on Mitre.	Size of Vessels that can pass the Locks.
200 feet.	45 feet; Cornwall, 55 feet.	9 feet.	185+44+9, or 800 tons burthen.

Capacity has never been estimated.

ERIE CANAL enlarged (nearly completed).

Length.	Width at Water Line.	Depth.	Remarks.
350 miles.	70 feet.	7 feet.	See Engineer's Report, State of New York, 1855.

Dimensions of the Locks.

Length between Gates.	Width.	Depth on Mitre.	Size of Vessels that can pass the Locks.
110 feet.	19 feet.	5 feet.	100+17+5, or 200 tons burthen.

Capacity of enlarged Canal, 7,000,000 tons.

The cost of transportation, according to the estimates of the latest Reports, are:—

By Canal - - - - 8 mills per ton per mile.
„ River - - - - - 5 do. do.
„ Lake - - - - - 3 do. do.
The ocean freight is estimated at - - 1½ do. do.

The estimated cost of one ton of merchandise from Chicago to Liverpool, viâ the Lakes and River St. Lawrence, according to the present capacity of the Canal, is - - - - - 8½ dollars.
Do. by the Erie Canal and New York - - 11 „
Do. by Oswego - - - - - 10 „

KIVAS TULLY,
Civil Engineer.

Toronto, 29 June 1858.

DEAR SIR, Toronto, 15 July 1858.

I AM engaged in the purchase and shipment of wheat and flour in Canada.

The rate of freight on a bushel of wheat hence to New York, viâ Oswego, is as follows:—

Toronto to Oswego, say 140 miles - - - - $0·2½
Oswego to Albany by Canal, 209 miles, and from Albany to New York by Hudson River, 150 miles (no reshipment at Albany) - 0·7½
——$0·10

On a barrel of flour as above, viz.:
Toronto to Oswego - - - - - 0·10
Oswego to New York Canal and Hudson River - - - 0·28
—— 0·38

Freight hence to Montreal:
On a bushel of weat, is - - - - - 0·06
On a barrel of flour - - - - - - - 0·18

Toll charged on a barrel of flour:—
Oswego to Albany is at the rate of 2 mills per 1000 lbs. per mile, or 9 cts. per barrel.
On wheat same rate, or 2½ cts. per bushel.

The above rates of freight are current now, and are lower than have ever obtained before. Occasionally a small abatement from these even is made.

I have, &c.
P. BUNDY.

Hon. W. H. Merritt, M.P.P.,
Toronto.

The opinion of W. Kenningham, Esq., a merchant of Chicago and a passenger on the "Dean Richmond," as to the relative prices of freight between Chicago and Montreal, and between Chicago and New York, thence by ocean to Liverpool, was published in the "London Times" on the 3 November 1856, and which give the following result, viz:—

	Per bushel.	Per quarter.	No. of days.
The prices of freight from Chicago to New York are found to be	£0 1 5½	£0 11 8	37
From Chicago to Montreal	0 0 11¼	0 7 6	26
Showing a gain from the interior of	£0 0 6¼	£0 4 2	11

And a saving of time through Canada of 11 days.

While there was a loss in prices of ocean freight of 4½*d.* per bushel and 3*s.* per quarter, although a gain in time of seven days.

Council Room, Quebec Board of Trade,
30 June 1858.

SIR,

I HAVE to acknowledge your letter, dated the 17th instant, making certain inquiries, by desire of the Chairman of the Committee on Home and Foreign Trade, relative to the rates of freight inland and seaward, to and from several Canadian and United States ports, and other matters, in the year 1857; also respecting the operation on the coast and shipping interest under the treaty of 1854.

The extensive information called for, I regret to say, is not attainable here; I can, therefore, only offer in reply the annexed brief statement of the rates of freight, or rather of the average rates for this port.

With respect to the treaty of 1854, it may be said that Quebec being more distant than other ports from inland navigation intercourse, does not afford a good criterion for judging of its "practical "operation on the coast and shipping interest," and the published returns of "Trade and Navigation "for the year 1857, presented to both Houses of Parliament," have in several instances been found so incorrect, especially the "Tonnage by Inland Navigation between Canada and the United States" (No. 28), as respects this port, that no reliance can be placed upon them. It may, however, be remarked that had the reciprocity under the treaty included "new ships," the port of Quebec, where that branch of Canadian industry is carried on to a great extent, would, it is believed, have largely benefitted by it.

I have &c.,
JOHN BRUCE,
Secretary.

To W. E. Griffith, Esq.,
Clerk Committee on Home and Foreign Trade,
Legislative Assembly.

PORT OF QUEBEC—FREIGHTS IN 1857.

Up Freight by Steamers.

From Quebec to Toronto and ports on Lake Ontario - 20*s* or $4.00 per gross ton.
From Quebec to ports on Lake Erie - - - - 25*s.* „ 5.00 „

Down Freight by Steamers.

From ports on Lake Ontario to Quebec - - - - per barrel 1*s.* 6*d.* or $0.30
From ports on Lake Erie „ - - - - - 2*s.* 0*d.* „ 0.40

Up Freight by Schooners.

From Quebec to ports on Lake Ontario - - - - - $3.00 per gross ton.
From Quebec to ports on Lake Erie - - - 3.50

Down Freight by Schooners.

From ports on Lake Ontario to Quebec - - per barrel 1*s.* to 1*s.* 3*d.* } According to late-
From ports on Lake Erie „ - - „ 1*s.* to 1*s.* 6*d.* } ness of season.

From Quebec to Liverpoool, Timber - - - - 27*s.* to 34*s.*
Do do. Deals - - - - £4 to £4 5*s.*

The export of grain and flour from Quebec is so limited in extent, indeed of the latter it is mostly for filling up or poop freight, that the rates occassionally paid cannot be given as a rule.

From Liverpool to Quebec - - - 8*s.* 6*d.* to 17*s.* 6*d.* per ton.

(APPENDIX A, No. 5.)

Comparative length of the Canal.

Erie Canal, connecting Lake Erie viâ Buffalo with the River Hudson, 352 miles.		
Welland Canal, connecting Lake Erie with Ontario - -	28	
St. Lawrence, connecting Lake Ontario with the ocean - -	44	
	—	72
Difference between Lakes Erie and the Atlantic in favour of the St. Lawrence - - - - - - - - -		280 miles.
The Oswego canal connecting Lake Ontario with the Erie Canal at Syracuse - - - - - - -	36	
Thence to Albany - - - - - - - -	134	
	—	170
The St. Lawrence Canal to tide water - - - -		44
Difference between Lake Ontario and the Atlantic, viâ St. Lawrence - - - - - - - - -		126 miles.

Dimensions.

Erie Canal Locks, after enlargement - - -	110 × 17 × 7 feet water.
Welland Canal - - - - - -	150 × 26.6 × 10.6 „
St. Lawrence - - - - - -	200 × 45.0 × 9.0 „

Capacity.

The capacity of the Erie Canal, before its enlargement with locks of 90 × 15 × 4 feet, was 4,116,082 tons. When enlarged, it is estimated by J. L. McAlpine, Esquire, at 7 millions of tons.

The capacity of the Welland Canal may be estimated from the same dimensions at least 12 million tons; the St. Lawrence Canal at double; and when the channel of the St. Lawrence is deepened to 12 feet water, the capacity of the water communications through Canada from Lake Ontario to the ocean will be unlimited.

Railroads.

The following is the cost of transporting coal on roads of various grades, exclusive of drawbacks, or of interest on capital, and the capacity of the road: (Report of the Pennsylvania and Reading Railroad Company, 1856, page 68.)

Level roads, average net load 437.2 tons:—

Capacity, 4,000,000 tons.	No. of trains, 9,149.	Cost per ton per mile, $\frac{65}{100}$ cents.	
2nd do. 2,000,000 „	„ 4,574	„ „ $\frac{69}{100}$ „	
¼ do. 1,000,000 „	„ 2,287	„ „ $\frac{75}{100}$ „	

Grades of 22 feet per mile, net load 233.5 tons:—

Capacity, 2,113,449 tons.	No. of trains, 9,149.	Cost per ton per mile, $\frac{99}{100}$ cents.	
½ do. 1,056,724 „	„ 4,574	„ „ $\frac{92}{100}$ „	
¼ do. 528,362 „	„ 2,287	„ „ $1\frac{04}{100}$ „	

Grades of 25 feet per mile, net load 205.7 tons:—

Capacity, 1,881,951 tons.	No. of trains, 9,149.	Cost per ton per mile, $\frac{75}{100}$ cents.	
½ do. 940,975 „	„ 4,574	„ „ $\frac{99}{100}$ „	
¼ do. 470,488 „	„ 2,287	„ „ $1\frac{10}{100}$ „	

Grades of 50 feet per mile, net loads 128.8 tons:—

Capacity, 1,178,392 tons.	No. of trains, 9,149.	Cost per ton per mile, $1\frac{31}{100}$ cents.	
½ do. 539,196 „	„ 4,574	„ „ $1\frac{49}{100}$ „	
¼ do. 294,598 „	„ 2,287	„ „ $1\frac{64}{100}$ „	

Grades of 55 feet per mile, net loads 109.1 tons:—

Capacity, 1,089,646 tons.	No. of trains, 9,149.	Cost per ton per mile, $1\frac{33}{100}$ cents.	
½ do. 544,823 „	„ 4,574	„ „ $1\frac{50}{100}$ „	
¼ do. 272,411 „	„ 2,287	„ „ $1\frac{73}{100}$ „	

The grades descend in the direction of the trade, except $1\frac{7}{10}$ miles in passing the summit between the Schuylkill and Delaware, on which distance there is an extreme grade of $38\frac{4}{10}$ feet per mile against the trade.

The cost of transportation on the Erie Canal is five mills per ton per mile; upon the Central Railroad, nineteen mills per ton per mile; and on the New York and Erie, thirteen mills; the charges for the transportation, including tolls on the Canals in 1853, averaged one cent and one mill per ton per mile. The charges on the Central Railroad averaged four cents and four mills per ton per mile; and on the N. Y. and Erie, two cents and four mills. (Report of Mr. McAlpine, State Engineer and Surveyor of New York, 9th February 1854, page 28).

COMPARATIVE Prices of Traffic between Lake Erie and New York, viâ the New York Central and Welland Railway.

300 miles at 1½ cents cost.
1 cent profit.

By Railway at 2½ cents per ton per mile - - - - -	$7.50
150 miles at 5 cents cost.	
2 cents profit.	
By the North River 7 cents per ton per mile - - - -	1.05
Two transhipments at Buffalo and Albany at 10 cents - - -	0.20
450 miles at per ton - - - - - - - -	$8.75

25 miles Welland Railway.
36 „ Oswego „
81 „ Albany „

Railway, 142 miles, at 1½ cents cost and 1 cent profit - - -	$3.55	
North River, 150 miles, at 7 cents per ton per mile - - -	1.05	
118 miles Lake Ontario, at 2½ mills cost and 1 mill profit - - -	0.41	
Four transhipments, Lake Erie, Oswego, and Albany, at 10 cents -	0.40	
150 miles North River, at 7 mills per ton per mile - - -	1.05	
	——	6.46
Difference in favour of Welland Railway - - - - -		$2.29

AVERAGE Speed of Freight Trains on the following Railroads, taken from the Annual Report of the Railroad Commission of the State of New York.

Page 1, New York Central Railroad - - - -	12	miles per hour.
„ 230, New York and Erie „ - - - -	7	„
„ 709, Ogdensburgh Northern „ - - - -	8	„
„ 107, Waterdown and Rome „ - - - -	12	„
„ 161, Oswego and Syracuse „ - - - -	12	„

An account of the cost of loading and unloading have been kept at the Dunkirk Station, on the New York and Erie Railroads, from which it appears the expense is found to be nearly seven cents per ton. (Report Erie Canal Commissioner, State of New York, for 1855, page 91.)

(APPENDIX A, No. 6.)

TABLE showing the comparative Distance, Cost, and Time occupied in transporting a Ton of Goods between Liverpool and Chicago by way of the St. Lawrence, and by the River Hudson.

From	To	Distance.	Mode of Transit.	Cost per Ton per Mile.	Toll.	Total Charges per Ton.	Relative Speed per Mile per Hour.	Time.		
								Days.	Hours.	
				c. m.	m.	$ c.				
Liverpool -	Quebec -	2,500	Ocean	0 1	—	2 50	12	8	16	
Quebec -	Chicago -	1,000	Railway	3 0	—	30 00	20	2	2	
Viâ Quebec - -		3,500	- -	—	—	32 50	—	10	18	By Ocean and Railway.
Liverpool -	New York -	3,000	Ocean	0 1	—	3 00	12	10	10	
New York -	Chicago -	1,000	Railway	3 0	—	30 00	20	2	2	
Viâ New York -		4,000	- -	—	—	33 00	—	12	12	By Ocean and Railway.

TABLE showing the comparative Distance, Cost, &c.—*continued.*

From	To	Distance.	Mode of Transit.	Cost per Ton per Mile.	Toll.	Total Charges per Ton.	Relative Speed per Mile, per Hour.	Time. Days.	Time. Hours.	
				c. m.	m.	$ c.				
Liverpool -	Quebec -	2,500	Ocean -	0 1	—	2 50	12	8	16	
Quebec -	Prescott -	270	Railway	3 0	—	8 16	20	—	13½	
Prescott -	Welland R.R.	250	Lake -	0 2½	—	0 62	10	—	21	
Port Dalhousie -	Port Colborne Terminus	25	Railway	3 0	—	0 75	20	—	1¼	
Welland Railway Terminus -	Chicago -	1,000	Lake -	0 2½	—	2 50	10	4	4	
Viâ Quebec - -		4,045	- -	—	—	14 47	—	14	7	By Ocean, Lake, and R.R.
Liverpool -	New York -	3,000	Ocean -	0 1	—	3 00	12	10	10	
New York -	Albany -	150	River -	0 8	—	1 20	5	1	6	
Albany -	Lake Erie -	300	Railway	3 0	—	9 00	20	—	15	
——	Chicago -	1,000	Lake -	0 2½	—	2 50	10	4	4	
Viâ New York -		4,450	- -	—	—	15 70	—	16	11	By Ocean, Lake, and R.R.
Liverpool -	Quebec -	2,500	Ocean -	0 1	—	2 50	12	8	16	
Quebec	Montreal -	180	River -	0 5	—	0 90	5	1	12	
Montreal -	Prescott -	44	Canal -	0 8	1	0 39	5	—	9	
Prescott -	Welland R.R.	250	Lake -	0 2½	—	0 62	10	1	7	
Welland R.R.	Lake Erie -	25	Railway	3 0	—	0 75	20	—	1¼	
Lake Erie -	Chicago -	1,000	Lake -	0 2½	—	2 50	10	4	4	
Viâ Quebec - -		3,999	- -	—	—	7 66	—	16	1	By Ocean, Canal, and Lake.
Liverpool -	New York -	3,000	Ocean -	0 1	—	3 00	12	10	10	
New York -	Albany -	150	River -	0 7	—	1 05	5	1	6	
Albany -	Buffalo -	352	Canal -	0 8	1	3 16	3	4	18	
Buffalo -	Chicago -	1,000	Lake -	0 2½	—	2 50	10	4	4	
Viâ New York -		4,502	- -	—	—	9 71	—	20	14	By Ocean, Canal, and Lake.

(APPENDIX A, No. 7.)

EVIDENCE of C. D. PIERCE, formerly Captain of the "Dean Richmond."

1. ARE you acquainted with the navigation of the lakes, rivers, canals, and the Atlantic between Chicago and Liverpool?—I am. I have been sailing on the lakes and on the Atlantic for the last twelve years. I commanded a vessel during ten years in the lake trade between Chicago and Quebec, and two years on the Atlantic, between Chicago and Liverpool, making the first voyage in 1856.

2. Can you give any particulars of the voyage?—Yes; we kept a regular log, which was published in the "London Times." We left Chicago on the 17th July, arriving in Liverpool on the 17th September following.

					Miles.
We were	2	days	in Milwaukie, shipping cargo.		
„	10	days and 2	hours	to Port Colborne, Welland Canal - - -	1,000
„	3	„ 15	„	passing the Welland Canal - - -	28
„	6	„ 0	„	to Prescott - - - - -	250
„	6	„ 3	„	through the St. Lawrence Canal to Montreal -	110
„	1	„ 5	„	to Quebec (towing) - - - -	180
Making	29	„ 1	„	in a distance of - - - -	1,568
	6	„ 4	„	at Quebec for repairs.	
	27	„ 0	„	to Liverpool - - - - -	2,500
					4,068

3. What was the cause of detention of six days between Prescott and Montreal?—It arose from the depth of water in the St. Lawrence canals. Her draught was nine feet six inches from Chicago through the Welland canal to Dickinson's landing, where we had to lighten to less than nine feet, which detained us two days. We were also detained two days in the Beauharnois canal, where the level was

still less than in the Cornwall, and one day in the Lachine canal, arising from the level being drawn down by mills.

4. What is the expense of lightening through the canals?—It averages about $250 for each vessel on her downward trip when they draw ten feet. The Welland canal admits vessels of ten feet six inches.

5. What number of vessels are making the direct voyage in the lake trade this year?—Fourteen, they average 380 tons, nine of which are under my direction.

6. What channel did you take at the outlet of the Gulf of St. Lawrence?—I went out by the Straits of Belle Isle with the "Dean Richmond," and sold her in England in 1856. Passed out by the channel of St. Pauls with the "Kershaw" in 1857, and through the Gut of Canso on her return.

7. What time did you leave Liverpool in the "Kershaw?"—I left on the 30th September, met a gale of wind, and ran into Falmouth; left that port 16th October, and arrived at Quebec 1st December, making the last trip for the season.

8. Did you meet with any difficulty in the navigation of the gulf?—Not the slightest. The charts of Captain Bayfield are so perfect that any competent mariner may take a vessel out or in without the aid of a pilot.

9. How do you account for the high rates of insurance from the Atlantic to and from Quebec?—It arises from the number of vessels formerly running ashore without sounding, which has led to erroneous impressions. There is no reason why the insurance should be higher than to the ports of New York, Boston, or Portland.

10. What would be a remunerative price per bushel of wheat or corn of sixty pounds, between Chicago and Liverpool, and per ton of merchandise returning?—Grain sixty pounds per bushel net $10; and ton of merchandise returning about $8, freights being extremely low.

11. What description of steamer should be employed to make up a daily line between Liverpool and Quebec, and what time would they occupy?—Not less than 2,000 tons, which at 10 miles per hour, would occupy about 10 days and 10 hours.

12. What tonnage of steamer will pass the St. Lawrence canals?—A steamer will convey a cargo of 1,000 tons up to Port Dalhousie, provided the St. Lawrence canals alluded to were deepened to 10 feet 6 inches water.

13. What size propeller will pass up the Welland canal?—One of about 360 tons, and which would convey 12,000 bushels of wheat.

14. What size propeller would be most profitably employed between the Welland canal and Chicago?—About the same as on the St. Lawrence, 1,000 tons.

15. Supposing a daily line of steamers of 2,000 tons placed on the route between Quebec and Liverpool, in connection with a continuous line to Chicago, would they obtain full freights?—Yes; for a period of 200 days, the supply furnished by the Western States would be ample; the transhipment by elevators serves to benefit grain; the voyage would be reduced to at most 20 days. The purchasers of grain could draw from Chicago on Liverpool direct at 30 days, paying first cost only, say 50 cents per bushel, leaving the freight, about 30 cents, to be paid in Liverpool on delivery, requiring less capital in the trade, at the same time this daily line would not interfere with the ordinary business of the port inasmuch as seven steamers of 1,000 tons burthen can navigate the ocean with perfect safety and with equal economy; so that it would only require the deepening of the canals to open a direct trade viâ the Welland canal and railway to all parts of Europe, and at the same time admit of a different class of sailing vessels to ply on the said route.

16. Have you any doubt on your mind, that if the same sums of money were annually paid by the Imperial and Canadian Governments for conveying the mails (or for any other object) to Quebec as to New York, individuals would offer a sufficient number of steamers to make up a daily line immediately?—Not the least; if the boats are of sufficient dimensions and power, because they have less ocean distance, can carry passengers, light freight, and emigrants, at less cost and in a shorter time to Quebec than to New York.

17. Have you any suggestion to make which would increase the trade through the Welland and St. Lawrence canals?—Yes; the reduction of tolls on timber, lumber, staves, and other articles. The principal articles of export from the Upper lakes to England at present are the best kind of walnut, cherry, and other boards, staves, and timber. These do not pass the St. Lawrence canals, but are generally rafted down the river; for if conveyed in a vessel, are subject to tolls, both on the Welland and St. Lawrence canals. Thus the tolls on one ton of wheat, valued at 80 cents per bushel, or $29.60 per ton, pays 30 cents toll, whereas I have estimated that a thousand staves at $20 pay $1.50 per 1,000 for toll.

18. Do you think the removal of the bars in the rapids between lakes St. Francis and St. Lewis woul. repay the cost?—Yes; by Maillefert and Raesloff's report, less than one million of dollars each will give twelve feet of water from Lake Ontario to tide water, the most important improvement yet undertaken.

19. When the St. Lawrence canals become deepened, and when the Welland canal is enlarged, will it, in your judgment, be the means of lessening the traffic over the Welland railway?—No; because the Welland railway is only twenty-five miles long, with a descending grade in the direction of the trade, and from the facility and cheapness with which all descriptions of freight adapted for railways can be conveyed between lakes Erie and Ontario for the traffic east and west, it must always command full freight, it being the shortest land transit between Liverpool and Chicago.

20. Do you think the estimate of transportation mentioned in statement A is correct?—Yes.

21. What are the highest and lowest relative prices of freight paid between Cleveland, New York, and Montreal?—Prices of wheat are variable in the summer season, wheat is conveyed to New York for from 15 to 20 cents, and during the spring and fall from 25 to 35 cents per bushel, and to Quebec for from 10 to 20, and from 15 to 20 cents, making a difference of 50 per cent. to the two ports.

CANADA.

(APPENDIX A, No. 8.)

EVIDENCE of THOMAS WORTHINGTON, Esq., Inspector of Ports for Upper Canada.

22. Explain to the Committee the mode of intercourse prior to 1856, between Canada and the United States, relative to the exportation of wheat and flour?—By An act passed by the Legislative Assembly in 1847, 10 to 11 Vict., cap. 31, sects. 27 and 72, pp. 31 and 41, it shall be lawful for the importer of any wheat, maize, or other grain to grind and pack the same in bond; providing such grinding and packing be done and conducted under such regulations and restrictions as the Governor in Council shall, from time to time, make for this purpose; and the said regulations may extend to the substitution of beef and pork, flour and meal, in quantities equivalent to the produce of such cattle and swine, maize or other grain, 72, 41,* page 63, sects. 8 and 9 of regulations, 30th March, 1850. In the packing of flour ground from wheat imported from the United States, the Governor in Council permitted barrels to be imported free also from the United States, as in the case at Port Erie.

* Sic.

23. What is the practice now relative to similar importations and exportations?—The Customs practice in Canada is so far changed as to dispense with bonds, &c., as before provided. The Reciprocity Treaty being viewed generally by the Customs officers in charge of ports as confirmatory of more than all the privileges indicated by the Legislative enactments of 10 & 11 Vict., &c., and as permanently settling the question of a free and unrestricted international interchange in beef, pork, flour, meal, lumber, &c. It being generally understood and allowed that any or all of these articles could be exported or imported for conversion into flour, meal, pork, &c., and either taken back as the actual product, or the same substituted in weight or quantity within a given time; not only is our Customs practice here unchanged in this respect, but our Customs have in some cases extended it to wool, viz:—in carding and looming, and also to hay; the United States Treasury have of late narrowed their own interpretation, as once entertained of the Reciprocity Treaty; see document as per margin; see 929, page 504, clapboard; see 930, page 504, conversion of ;† see 934, page 505, shingle, both split; see 396, page 505, "growth or produce."

† Sic.

24. How do you construe the 3d article of the Treaty of 1854, between the United States and Canada?—This article of the Reciprocity Treaty has always appeared to me to have been previously intended to cover fairly all the products of the field and forest, such as wheat, corn, barley, rye, and oats, ground and unground, including horse feed, shorts, bran, and hay; saw logs, squared timber, lumber, clapboards, railway ties, and shingle bolts. In this construction I know I am borne out by the majority of the Customs officers in our service.

25. Have not consuls or agents been appointed lately?—Yes; but I have not been able to obtain full information as to all the appointments made; the following ports of entry, in Canada, I know are supplied, viz., Toronto, Whitby, Oshawa, Darlington and Newcastle, Collingwood, Oakville, Hamilton, Clifton, Chippewa, Dover, Rowan, Bruce, Port Stanley, Chatham, Windsor, Sarnia, and Goderich, and judging from the foregoing ports, I should infer that altogether there must be over fifty consular agents in Canada West.

26. When were these appointments made?—Since February last the circular for the Consular General of the United States for British North American Provinces was issued on the 28th July of the present year, and dated from Montreal, directing consular agents to prevent detention at the frontier ports, and to notify shippers of certain regulations of the Treasury Department of the United States. This information had been already communicated to the public by posters, &c., under the signature of Mr. Brydges, about two years since, and every precaution was taken that could possibly be devised by the Canadian Customs, as well as by the United States Customs, to insure correct returns of exports from Canada.

27. Under what circumstances did this change come into operation. The 1st and 2d sections of the Consular General's circular refers to the Treasury regulations of 1857, Nos. 203, 204, 206, 207, 209, 281, 287, 706, 707, and 710, but these have reference almost exclusively to articles paying duty, and not to goods free by treaty (see 287, 706, and 707), while the 3d section refers to articles of the produce of the United States exported to the British North American Provinces, and returned to the United States in the same condition as when exported, claiming to be entered free of duty, &c., and reference is here made to Nos. 242, 246, 286, 293, and 936, in support of this view: none of which however bear upon the question, excepting 930 and 936, these having special reference to the Reciprocity Treaty; it is worthy of note that in 936 we have the words "growth or produce" twice quoted, and not growth and produce. Regarding the 4th section of this circular, "merchandise the value of "$100 and upwards, claiming exemption from duty under the Reciprocity Treaty, pays a fee of $2." This impost is not justified by any law of the United States, and it is in direct violation of the Reciprocity Treaty. Goods free under this treaty cannot be made subject to any oath before a magistrate, nor is it competent for any consular agent to exact a fee legally (see regulation, 922). This regulation has only reference to foreign owners of goods, the produce of Canada, and not to the United States purchaser; upon reading the heading of No. 278, "Foreign owner's oath, where goods have been "actually purchased, to be taken before a consular officer of the United States in the British "Provinces," it is observable that the "Consular General" constructs his "regulation" on this heading, rather than upon the form itself, (see pp. 498, 499,) and which most distinctly alludes to the owner, discounts, bounties, and drawbacks, none of which can apply to goods free under the Reciprocity Treaty. Public feeling generally is against the assumption set up by the United States Consular General for British North America, both in the United States and Canada, and some able communications condemnatory thereof have appeared upon this question, through the public press (p. 1, 2, 3).

28. What fees are charged by the consular agents, and who participates in them?—The fee of $2 is charged, one half of which, I understand, goes into the pocket of the agent, and the remainder is transmitted to the Consular General.

(APPENDIX A, No. 9.)

To the Hon. W. H. MERRITT, Chairman of the Committee on Commerce.

DEAR SIR, Toronto Exchange, 9 July 1858.

WE have had occasion to ship a considerable quantity of split peas to New York, and until recently they were admited "as free" under the Treaty of Reciprocity. During the last season, however, in consequence of instructions from Washington, the collectors on the frontier have demanded the payment of duty, on the ground that split peas are not specially enumerated in the list of exemptions We are aware that split peas are not specially referred to in the treaty, but we believe that peas and pease-meal are exempt, and we cannot see why the intermediate manufacture, by splitting, should offend the spirit of the Act, and induce the imposition of a duty, where we think none was ever contemplated by those who framed the Act. Should your Committee concur with us in this opinion, we would respectively beg your attention to the matter, as the present illiberal construction of the Act, by the American authorities, in this and other instances which are now engaging your attention are militating most injuriously against the commerce of the country.

We are, &c.
JAMES BROWNE, Jr., & Co.

(APPENDIX A, No. 10.)

To the Honourable the LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY of CANADA in Parliament assembled.

The Petition of the Board of Trade of Toronto, respectfully sheweth:—

That whereas Nature has endowed this province with a magnificent highway to the ocean, through the Lakes and the River St. Lawrence, capable of bearing for coming ages the teeming produce of its rich soil to supply the wants of the manufacturing and consuming population of the countries of Europe:

And whereas the port of Quebec is 500 miles nearer to Liverpool than the port of New York, and produce is now being brought from Chicago and the north-western lakes by means of the facilities to navigation already existing in Canada at a cheaper and more expeditious rate than it can reach New York from the same points, and only requires a corresponding rate of ocean freights from Quebec to compete successfully with the export trade from New York to England:

And whereas the commercial, manufacturing, and shipping interests of the province are depressed and in a languishing condition, our public works on the St. Lawrence being all but idle, and the public debt of the country rapidly increasing without any prospect of the expenditure being diminished, under which circumstances it becomes imperative on the Legislature to provide some remedy for our present anomalous condition:

Therefore your petitioners respectfully pray your Honourable House would appoint a Committee to investigate the cause, and if possible provide some measure by which the present distress in commerce may be alleviated and the natural advantages of the Province be realized.

And your petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray, &c. &c.

THOS. CLARKSON,
President.

Charles Robertson, Secretary.
Toronto, 8 June 1858.

Nova Scotia.

NOVA SCOTIA.

No. 2.

Copy of a DESPATCH from the Earl of Mulgrave to the Right Hon. Sir E. B. Lytton, Bart.

No. 43. Government House, Halifax, N.S., May 2, 1859.

Sir, (Received May 16, 1859.)

I have the honour to transmit herewith the Blue Book for the year 1857, prepared, as nearly as circumstances rendered possible, in the amended form recommended in the Circular from your department under date 24th April 1857.

The Book is necessarily somewhat imperfect, owing to the fact that the returns which it contains have been supplied for local purposes, and the financial statements are principally made in currency, and also that, as in 1857 a change was made in the commencement of the financial year, some of the returns exhibit only a period of nine months.

Immediately on my arrival I directed that the Book for 1857 should be compiled, at the same time giving instructions that, without more than necessary delay, that for 1858 should also be completed, and it will be transmitted so soon as the Journals of the Legislature shall have been prepared.

The staff, however, which is employed in the different offices in this Province is so inadequate for the work which has to be performed that I fear it is hopeless to expect that punctuality and accuracy in the completion of the Blue Book which I should wish to see.

I have also issued an order that for the future the sheets of the Journal and Proceedings of the House of Assembly, which are used in the compilation of this volume, shall be printed in folio, in order more fully to comply with the requirements of the circular before mentioned.

As during the year 1857 the government of Nova Scotia was administered by my predecessor, I shall not enter into a detailed report of the state of the Colony at that period; the Comparative Statement (marked A.), which has been prepared by my directions, and which I append, will, however, show in some measure the financial position of the Province during the different periods to which it refers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MULGRAVE.

The Right Hon. Sir E. B. Lytton, Bart.
&c. &c. &c.

("A.")

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT.

Imports and Exports.

Tables exhibiting the Quantities and Value of the principal Articles of Import and Export will be found on pages 1 to 114, Part 2. of the accompanying Book. The period extending over nine months.

Statement of the Sterling Value of the Imports and Exports respectively, from the Year 1853 to 1857 inclusive.

Year.	Imports.	Exports.
	£	£
1853 - -	1,417,086	1,078,707
1854 - -	1,791,082	1,274,668
1855 - -	1,882,703	1,472,215
1856 - -	1,869,872	1,372,928
1857 (Nine months)	1,936,176	1,393,566

The increase in value of the imports of 1857 as compared with 1856 is thus shown to be 66,304*l.*, and the increase in the value of exports for the same period 20,638*l.*

Revenue and Expenditure.

An Abstract of the Accounts of Revenue and Expenditure is inserted at pages 3, 4, 5, Part V.

Revenue in 1856	-	-	£138,303 0 3
Revenue in 1857	-	-	146,129 7 4
Increase	-	-	£ 7,826 7 1

It is to be observed that this statement is irrespective of the Receipts arising from the disposal of Railroad Debentures, amounting to 153,000*l.* sterling, and that of the Revenue in 1856 12,000*l.* arises from the issue of Provincial paper money, and 11,200*l.* from Savings Bank Deposits.

Expenditure in 1856	-	-	£ 133,953 12 0
Expenditure in 1857	-	-	158,761 19 3
Increase	-	-	£ 24,808 7 3

exclusive of Expenditure in the construction of Provincial Railways, amounting, as shown by the Receiver General's account, to 191,779*l.* 16*s.* 6*d.* in 1857.

Balances in Treasury.

31 Dec. 1855	-	-	-	£ 18,984 3 1 Sterling.
„ 1856	-	-	-	17,907 11 4 „
„ 1857	-	-	-	5,274 19 3 „

STATEMENT exhibiting the AMOUNT and PARTICULARS of the PUBLIC DEBT, 1853 to 1857, inclusive.

Date.	Amount in Sterling	Particulars.								
		Notes in Circulation.			Deposits in Savings Bank, Interest 4 per Cent.			Railroad Construction Debentures, Interest 6 per Cent.			Monies undrawn.		
Dec. 31	£ s. d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1853	105,257 11 4	47,889	12	0	4,000	0	0	—			17,367	19	4
1854	135,969 14 8	56,691	12	0	56,400	0	0	—			22,878	2	8
1855	345,629 13 3	83,745	12	0	73,600	0	0	160,800	0	0	27,484	1	3
1856	432,523 13 6	95,745	12	0	84,800	0	0	233,900	0	0	18,078	1	6
1857	586,324 12 0	95,745	12	0	89,840	0	0	384,900	0	0	15,839	0	0

Note.—In the foregoing Statement temporary loans have not been included.

Shipping.

Nine Months	Number of Vessels built in 1857 - -	148
	Number of Tons Burden - - -	23,548
	Sterling Value, estimated - -	£ 175,620
Number of Vessels owned in the Colony - - -		1,994
Tons Burden - - - - - -		183,697
Estimated Value - - - - -		£1,041,772

New Brunswick

NEW BRUNSWICK.

No. 3.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Governor the Hon. J. H. T. Manners Sutton to the Right Hon. Sir E. B. Lytton, Bart.

(No. 27.) Government House, Fredricton, New Brunswick.
May 13, 1859.

Sir, (Received May 30, 1859.)

I must apologize for the delay which has occurred in the transmission of the Blue Book of this Province for the year 1857. But even now I have not received the second copy of this Book, and I am therefore unable to send it in duplicate, according to the established rule. I shall repair this omission as speedily as possible.

In the last paragraph of my Despatch to Mr. Labouchere (December 23d, 1857, No. 31,) which accompanied the Blue Book for the year 1856, I ventured to express a hope that I might be enabled thenceforward to transmit to the Secretary of State the Blue Book at an earlier period of the year, and thus escape the difficulties attendant on an explanation of events long passed, and prevent the misconception to which such an explanation must necessarily be liable, if it should be regarded as an exposition of the condition of the Province as existing at the date of the Despatch. And although this anticipation has not been realized, I hope that I shall, in the course of a few weeks, be in possession of the financial and other returns and official documents for the year 1858, which will enable me to lay before you without further delay all the explanations and remarks which would form the contents of the Blue Book Despatch for the year 1858. And I shall then avail myself of the opportunity of supplying the deficiences in this Despatch, as regards the condition of the Province during 1857, the preceding year.

Eleven Enclosures, forming the Blue Book.

Meanwhile I have the honour to forward to you the Returns, Reports, and other Documents referring to and explanatory of the state of affairs here in 1857, which are set forth in the Schedule annexed to this Despatch.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. H. T. MANNERS SUTTON.

The Right Hon. Sir E. Bulwer Lytton, Bart., M.P.,
&c. &c. &c.

Schedule of Returns, &c., &c.

1. Report of Auditor General on Public Accounts.
2. Custom House Returns.
3. Crown Land Returns.
4. Report of the Chief Commissioner of Works.
5. Report of the Postmaster General.
6. Report of the Superintendent of Education.
7. Returns of Banks and other incorporated Companies.
8. Report on the Provincial Lunatic Asylum.
9. Report of the Commissioners of Lighthouses.
10. Report of the Marine Hospital and Lazzaretto.
11. Report of the Board of Health at St. John.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

No. 4.

COPY of DESPATCH from Lieut.-Governor Sir D. DALY to the Right Hon. Sir E. BULWER LYTTON, Bart.

(No. 4.)

Government House, Prince Edward Island,
January 10, 1859,
(Received 8th February 1859)

SIR,

I HAVE the honour of transmitting to you herewith the Blue Book of this Colony for the year 1857, in duplicate.

2. The statements contained in this volume afford little ground for special comment. It was not until the latter part of the year (i.e. 1857) to which those returns relate that the effects of the depression in all commercial matters, which has been everywhere so severely felt, were to any serious degree experienced in this Island.

3. From the extent, however, to which the nearly total extinction of credit, consequent on the state of the money market all over the world, has subsequently affected all commercial enterprise, more especially ship-building, I apprehend that a falling off in the revenue for 1858 will will require circumspection and economy in the appropriations for the next financial year.

4. A very abundant harvest has already done much towards the restoration of a more prosperous state of things, as the produce of the soil has found ready sale at remunerative prices, and has been exported to an unprecedented extent, exhibiting a very satisfactory development of the effect of the Reciprocity Treaty with the United States.

5. The fisheries on the shores of the Island are undergoing a gradual increase, principally by the employment of enterprise and capital from the United States; but it is universally felt that no benefit is derived from this source at all in proportion to the Colony's capabilities, or such as would accrue if a sum equal to that which is annually abstracted from the means and productive industry of the Colony in the form of rents by absentee proprietors were to be employed in fisheries, or in the improved cultivation of the soil.

6. The breadth of land under cultivation is also on the increase, but it is difficult to determine whether as much can be said of population. A desire to emigrate to New Zealand has been somewhat prevalent in this Island for some time past, and one brig freighted with passengers, among whom were the owners of the vessel, has already sailed for that Colony, and it is said will be followed by a much larger number in a few months. Indeed it is within my own knowledge that many would emigrate if they could realize sufficient means to enable them to do so.

7. Immigrants have arrived here from Scotland within the past year to the extent of about 300, chiefly composed of the friends or relatives of old settlers, and are likely to remain; but from the best information I can procure I apprehend that the immigration from this Island to other Colonies and the United States fully equals, if it does not exceed, any immigration that has taken place.

8. The militia, I regret to say, remains in the same unsatisfactory state that I have hitherto had occasion to report. It exists but in name; and I see no reason at present to expect that a sufficient sum will be appropriated from the local revenue to bring it to such a state of proficiency as the defenceless state of the Colony demands.

9. The free education system, which has been in operation for some years, and which is supported at a cost of nearly one third of the whole of the revenue of the Colony, continues to give such general satisfaction that no disposition has yet been evinced to economise in that direction, notwithstanding the disproportion which so heavy a charge bears to the resources of the Island.

10. Considerable improvement has been effected in the means of postal communication with the neighbouring Colonies, by the employment of a superior steamer, under contract for five or seven years, which gives general and increasing satisfaction by the speed and

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

regularity with which the service is performed, and the increased facilities it affords to the travelling public.

11. I am happy to be enabled to assure you that the tranquillity of the Colony, which I have had the satisfaction of witnessing during the whole course of my administration of this Government, continues unbroken, and that I am under no apprehension of its interruption.

I am, &c.

The Right Hon. Sir E. B. Lytton, Bart., M.P. (Signed) D. DALY.
&c. &c. &c.

NEWFOUNDLAND.

NEWFOUNDLAND.

No. 5.

COPY of DESPATCH from Governor Sir A. BANNERMAN to the Rt. Hon. Sir E. B. LYTTON, Bart.

(Separate.)

Government House, Newfoundland,
October 1, 1858.
(Received November 19, 1858.)

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith the "Blue Book," for the past year 1857.

2. On transmitting the same document for 1856, I stated that having been but a short time in the Colony, I abstained from offering any observations on the state of Newfoundland until a further opportunity.

3. The revenue for the year ending 1857 amounted to 116,600*l.*, a larger one than had ever been collected in the Colony. I suggested to the Legislature at the opening of the Session of this year, that "care should be taken to inquire into the causes which occa- "sioned financial prosperity; that I understood that large importations of goods were "made in the preceding year, that the fisheries were successful, and the labouring "population well employed and paid, consequently, large consumers of dutiable "articles; but fisheries being precarious, series of successful years were not to be "expected, and that the revenue should be appropriated with due economy and a "regard to the probable future income of the Colony and its existing debt."

4. Should direct steam communication with England (which is so much desired by the community) be carried into effect, a large sum will be required besides any expected aid from Her Majesty's Government to accomplish the object.

5. Great inconvenience is felt from a deficient supply of water for the town of St. John's, and, frequent fires having taken place, an additional supply of water will become indispensable, but must be attended with considerable expense.

6. Up to the present time, the 1st October, the revenue has considerably fallen off, but not to such an extent as to create uneasiness, provided due economy is observed in the appropriation of the sums levied by taxation.

7. The fisheries have not been so productive as in the year 1857, but I hope the produce will be nearly an average.

8. Soon after my arrival in the Colony representations were made to me on the very inefficient administration of justice; the chief Judge of the Supreme Court, a gentleman highly respected here, having no aid from his two colleagues (owing to their age and infirmity), and being obliged to do most of the duty. I brought this subject under the consideration of the Legislature, who readily granted allowances to the two retiring Judges. The vacancies have been provisionally filled up by gentlemen who, I believe, have the confidence of the community, and I hope their appointments will be confirmed by Her Majesty.

9. The Session of 1857 had terminated two months before my arrival in St. John's; it was a short one, and the Legislature principally occupied in discussing the proposed Fishery Convention with France. It required the sanction of the Colonial Legislature, and as they considered new concessions and privileges were given to the French fishermen, which would greatly affect the interests of the Newfoundland fishermen, strong remon-

strances were made to Her Majesty's Government against any new concessions being made to the French; the proposed Convention was consequently withdrawn, and the Newfoundland fisheries now stand on the same footing which they did before the late Convention was proposed; and subjects of France and citizens of the United States possess, by existing treaties, rights of fishery, which they periodically exercise on the coasts of Newfoundland. NEWFOUNDLAND.

10. The Commandants of His Imperial Majesty's Ships, stationed on these coasts during this season, have intimated that the Government of France is determined that the existing treaties with that nation shall be strictly adhered to; and English fishermen (more particularly in St. George's Bay) have taken great alarm in consequence, having been prosecuting the fishery there for many years, as they allege, without molestation.

11. The question is one which, I think, ought to be finally arranged and set at rest; collisions and disputes frequently occurred, and will again occur, and they may lead to serious consequences; both nations are put to the expense of sending ships of war for the protection of the fisheries, whereas, if the rights of each nation were clearly defined, a cutter or two for police purposes would be sufficient, and only required for six months in the year.

12. If the question of dispute be confined to the construction of *existing* treaties, which I hope it will, I can see no great difficulty in obtaining a satisfactory solution of what is meant by the terms "concurrent right," and "exclusive right," due attention being paid to the interpretation which has been placed on these treaties by the respective parties, and the practice which has prevailed for a series of years, which, in my opinion, cannot be well ascertained without getting evidence on the spot.

13. I believe, indeed I have no doubt, that encroachments have been made on both sides, and I consider it to be of great importance correctly to ascertain the nature of these encroachments, and which cannot be got at without direct evidence, as hitherto it has been assertion on one side, and denial on the other.

14. I have dwelt too long on this subject, but considering it one of vital consequence, I trust it may soon occupy the attention of Her Majesty's Government, and it will afford me sincere satisfaction to see the Newfoundland fishery question, which has caused so many negotiations and so much correspondence, brought to a satisfactory conclusion.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. BANNERMAN,
Governor.

To the Right Hon. Sir E. B. Lytton, Bart.,
&c. &c. &c.

BERMUDA.

BERMUDA.

No. 6.

COPY of DESPATCH from Governor MURRAY to the UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE.

(No. 60.)

Bermuda, June 19, 1858.

MY LORD, (Received July 12, 1858.)

IN forwarding the Blue Book for 1857, which only came to my hands from Mr. Kennedy, the Colonial Secretary, so immediately preceding the departure of the last mail that time was not sufficient to examine and send it by that opportunity, I find that no particular remarks are necessary on my part.

2. You will observe some diminution in the exports of agricultural produce, which has been mainly attributable to the potato disease having prevailed to a great extent. I have the satisfaction of finding that the efforts I have made since my arrival in the colony to encourage the development of its agricultural resources have been attended with so much success, that whereas on my first assuming the Government a limited number of

BERMUDA. the small vessels belonging to the colony were sufficient to carry away all the exported articles, I now have the gratification of witnessing the arrival here of numerous foreign vessels of considerable tonnage, seeking to be freighted with the produce of these islands, and obtaining it at remunerative prices.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FREEMAN MURRAY.

The Under Secretary of State,
&c. &c.

PART II.

WEST INDIES AND MAURITIUS.

PART II.—WEST INDIES AND MAURITIUS.

JAMAICA.

JAMAICA.

No. 7.

COPIES of a DESPATCH from Governor DARLING to the Right Honourable Sir EDWARD BULWER LYTTON Bart, M.P.

(No. 160.) King's House, 27th December 1858.

(Received Feb. 3, 1859.)

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the Blue Book for the year 1857. I assumed the government of the colony towards the close of the month of July in that year, and soon afterwards became occupied in the preparation of measures to be submitted to the legislature at its then approaching session, which commenced early in November and continued until the end of the year.

2. Under these circumstances I have thought that my annual report will be advantageously confined to such a notice of the returns, which the Blue Book contains, as may serve succinctly to exhibit the financial and economic condition of the island at the close of the year 1857, both absolutely and in comparison as respects its more important features with that which the similiar returns for the preceding year disclose.

Revenue.

3. Commencing then with the ordinary revenue derived from duties, taxes, stamps, fees, and licences for the year 1857, it will be perceived that it is returned at 200,682*l.* 19*s.* 1*d.* against the sum of 208,450*l.* 5*s.* for the year 1856.

4. It appears not to have been the custom in this colony to prepare the comparative return of Revenue and Expenditure for which the Blue Book forms provide, and the ready means of comparison which that document affords are therefore wanting. I shall endeavour to have this omission remedied in future. But it may be stated generally that the more important sources of revenue, viz. the customs' duties, the tonnage duties, the rum duties, and the stamp duties, yielded a return for 1857 rather in excess of that for the preceding year, while the difference in favour of the latter upon the total revenue seems to have been occasioned by the fact that a large amount of arrears of direct taxes was collected in that year.

5. The total revenue for the years 1857 and 1856 stood thus:—

	1857. £	1856. £
Ordinary receipts	200,683	208,450
Casual receipts	10,044	13,318
Total	£ 210,727	£221,768

In both years, however, rests from loans are included which it seems to me have no proper place in a statement of revenue.

Expenditure.

The expenditure for those years amounted respectively to, in what are termed:—

	1857. £	1856. £
Ordinary payments	180,778	182,521
Casual payments.	26,521	31,091
Total	£ 207,299	£213,612

6. The ordinary payments are, however, made to include the interests of two loans, amounting to no less than 30,000*l.* while the interests of other loans are placed under the head of casual payments.

Local Revenues.

7. The local revenues raised and collected in the twenty-two parishes into which the island is divided amounted to 46,267*l.*, and the expenditure of those parishes to 42,002*l.*

Public Debt.

8. The public debt stands, I regret to say, at the very high figure of 852,808*l.* It is composed as stated in the return :

	£
i. Of the capital of the fund derived from deductions from the stipends of the clergy of the Established Church, to provide pensions for their widows and orphans, amounting to	38,080
ii. Of the capitals of charities, eleemosynary and educational, but principally the latter, which have been long since applied by the legislature of the day to purposes of revenue; posterity being saddled for ever with the interest thereon, at rates varying from 6 to 10, and in one instance as high as 24 per cent. These capitals amount to	68,202
iii. Of the deposits of the savings' banks, amounting to	44,443
iv. Deposits of insolvent estates of the Court of Chancery, and of apprentice valuations, amounting to	10,554
v. Of loans secured under various Acts, amounting in all to	692,525

8,150*l.* of this sum consists of exchequer bills which have been redeemed in the course of the present year. The imperial guaranteed loan 480,000*l.* is under gradual redemption by the payment of 10,000*l.* a year, as a sinking fund. The immigration loan, amounting to 44,375*l.* is also under gradual redemption by a special tax upon exports; and there is moreover a sum of 160,000*l.* remaining unliquidated of the loan of 200,000*l.* raised under an Act of the fourth year of His late Majesty, to afford relief for the losses incurred in the Slave Rebellion of 1831. 4 W. 4. c. 2.

Expenditure by Great Britain.

9. The amount expended by Great Britain in and of the civil establishment is stated at,—

	£
For the salary of stipendiary magistrates and superannuation allowance to officers of customs	7,467
To which must be added, part salary of the Governor	3,500
Total	£10,967

The military and naval expenditure on account of the colony is returned at,—

Through the commissariat	132,458
Through the ordnance	14,237
Total	£146,695

Of the first of these items, 47,686*l.* is on account of the Royal Navy, and 84,772*l.* for allowances and provisions to the troops.

Militia.

10. The laws which regulate the militia service provide for a force consisting of 4,426 rank and file, including eight companies of artillery and 565 cavalry, with an adequate number of officers in both arms. And in case of actual invasion or imminent danger thereof, or of rebellion, the Governor may, with the advice of the Privy Council of Jamaica, direct the enrolment in the several regiments of all the male population between the ages of 21 and 45. For the present however, the militia may be said to be disembodied, the periodical ballots for service having been neglected for some time past; this, however, is a defect for which I entertain the hope that the legislature will be disposed to provide the necessary remedy, in so far at least as the enrolment of men liable to service is concerned; but a system of regular drill and muster would, in time of peace, operate so much to the inconvenience of our widely scattered population, except in the the towns, that provisions of law to compel that course would not, I think, be entertained.

Legislation.

11. The legislation of the year 1857 comprises some enactments which there can be little doubt will conduce to the advantage of all classes of the community, when practical effect can be given to them. Without noticing important changes in the former

JAMAICA.

system of taxation as affecting the mass of the people, which, though just in principle, experience had shown was, when applied to a population circumstanced as that of Jamaica, not only a failure in respect of revenue, but a source of constant irritation and wrong; I may refer more particularly to the arrangement by which the care and maintenance of the high roads and bridges are transferred from parochial boards and local trusts to the Executive Government, who will have the services of three qualified civil engineers at their disposal, and are empowered to raise a considerable loan for the purpose of at once effecting solid repairs and improvements; the current revenues which the law provides being at the same time, it is believed, calculated to provide sufficient means for maintaining the roads in their improved condition under a proper system for that purpose.

12. Laws were also passed to enable the Governor to meet in some degree, by means of advances to be repaid by employers, the demands for agricultural labourers of such of the proprietors and lessees of the larger plantations as may find that they cannot altogether depend upon the native supply.

13. These laws were, however, by a misunderstanding in the island as to the precise terms of the conditions upon which immigrants from the East Indies are allowed to be introduced into the West Indian colonies, opposed to the stipulations which the Government of India and Her Majesty's Government consider it necessary to maintain on behalf of the immigrant, and were in consequence disallowed by Her Majesty. There can be no doubt that the local legislature will in its present session obviate these objections; and in reliance upon their adopting this course, Her Majesty's Government have given directions that three thousand Coolies shall, if possible, be despatched to the colony without delay.

14. Under the legislation of the session of 1857, reformatories for vagrant and criminal children, and children abandoned by their parents, were also first recognised as deserving of encouragement and of assistance from the public revenue; and I hope that the defective measure which was passed for that purpose will be improved and rendered more beneficial in the present session.

Pensions.

15. The amount of pensions paid out of the revenues of the colony is 549*l.*, it is distributed amongst 20 recipients, the largest rate being (in two cases) 120*l.*, and the lowest 6*l.*, of which there are seven instances. Most of these allowances are for services rendered and injuries and losses sustained in the last slave rebellion.

Population.

16. The last Census was taken in the year 1844, when the population amounted at the lowest calculation to 377,433, of whom 15,776 were Europeans, and the remainder of the African and Europ-African races.

17. Opinions vary as to whether the natural increase has compensated for the ravages of cholera and smallpox, which have occasioned a fearful mortality since the year referred to, while there seems to be no doubt that the ordinary deaths in infancy from the want of medical and maternal care are relatively larger than in most other countries.

18. The Local Government have proposed to the Legislature, now in session, measures for effecting a fresh enumeration of the population in the year 1859, and for placing medical attendance and medicines within their more easy reach.

Ecclesiastical.

19. The ecclesiastical return shows that in the island there are twenty-two (22) parish churches and seventy-four (74) chapels served by ministers of the Church of England; that these are estimated to contain fifty-two thousand six hundred (52,600) persons, and are reported to be habitually attended by congregations to the extent of thirty-eight thousand four hundred and sixty (38,460). The stipends paid to the clergy amount to about thirty thousand pounds (30,000*l.*) per annum, of which twenty-seven thousand six hundred pounds (27,600*l.*) are contributed from the island revenue, and the remainder is supplied from a parliamentary fund and other fluctuating resources which are dispensed by the Bishop of Jamaica, and in his absence from the colony, by the coadjutor, Bishop of Kingston. The column headed "dissenting places of worship" is, I regret to perceive, barren of information; but I trust that in the Blue Book for 1858 this defect may be supplied.

Education.

20. The following Table shows the number of free schools and schools under the superintendence of the Church of England and other religious denominations, with the number of children returned as attending the same, viz. : —

—	Number of Schools.	Number of Scholars attending.
Free schools	7	1,335
Schools in connexion with Church of England	108	8,016
Presbyterian Church	32	2,187
Baptist	42	2,306
Wesleyan	35	2,599
Moravian	40	2,920
Independent (connected with London Missionary Society)	13	1,065
American Mission	6	347
Roman Catholic Mission	8	379
Total	291	21,154

The number of scholars presents a considerable increase upon the number returned in 1856, which was only 16,389; but I am sorry to think that this more favourable appearance is greatly owing to the return for the present year including schools which were omitted in that of 1856. There are not wanting, however, instances, and I am happy to believe they are far from inconsiderable in number, in which earnestness and energy on the part both of societies and individuals are consistently and systematically brought to bear upon the education of the younger classes of the population. More attention too is, I have reason to believe, paid to the accomplishment of real intellectual advancement and the acquisition of useful knowledge than was the case in the earlier years of the history of the emancipated classes. Those engaged in the instruction of youth have been too apt to be content if they could point to a long roll of attendants at school as a proof of the successful progress of their work.

22. More value, too, is now I think attached to the quality of the education conferred; and if this be so, the extent to which it may be spread may well be regarded as of inferior importance. A really good and abiding impression produced upon the minds of a few will doubtless work out results which, though they may be long deferred, will amply compensate for the delay by their more solid and durable character.

Imports and Exports.

23. I transcribe from the Blue Book the following abstract tables of the value of the imports and exports of the year :—

Remarks.	—		
	£	s.	d.
The total amount of Exports from the island of Jamaica is	1,235,496	15	7
But from this must be deducted the amount of British, Foreign, and other Colonial produce and manufactures which has been imported into the island in the first instance, and then exported therefrom	52,716	8	3
Leaving the actual value of Exports - £	1,182,780	7	4

JAMAICA.

TOTAL VALUE in Sterling of the IMPORTS and EXPORTS of the Colony of JAMAICA from and to each Country in the Year 1857.

COUNTRIES.	IMPORTS.	EXPORTS.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Great Britain	488,150 15 1	964,731 19 4
BRITISH COLONIES.		
North American Colonies	94,979 14 8	13,099 11 4
British West Indies	12,831 18 0	13,130 11 5
British Settlements, Honduras	106 10 0	1,369 16 1
FOREIGN COUNTRIES.		
Hanse Towns	3,799 0 9	52,250 4 9
Madeira	496 0 0	—
United States	221,003 10 3	154,683 15 6
New Grenada	3,350 11 2	18,336 19 3
Venezuela	621 6 9	—
Dutch West Indies	1,121 5 8	1,019 3 10
Danish West Indies	5,963 13 0	1,273 16 9
Spanish West Indies	2,095 6 3	7,433 0 9
Saint Domingo	2,630 11 10	8,013 7 7
Guatemala	—	154 9 0
£	797,150 3 5	1,235,496 15 7

24. If from the value of imports there be deducted the value of British, Foreign, and other Colonial produce re-exported, the result will show the value for consumption at seven hundred and forty-four thousand four hundred and thirty-four pounds (744,434*l.*) But this being the invoice value, the real trade value may be taken at least two fifths higher, and will thus indicate that a million of money is expended in the purchase of imported articles. The total value of imports for the year 1856 was estimated at nine hundred and sixty-one thousand eight hundred and eighty-six pounds (961,886*l.*), while it fell in 1857 to seven hundred and ninety-seven thousand one hundred and fifty pounds (797,150*l.*)

25. The quantities of the principal articles of export stood thus in the years 1856 and 1857 respectively, viz.:—

		1856.		1857.
Sugar	Cwts.	457,958	-	549,662
Rum	Galls.	1,303,902	-	1,536,779
Coffee	Lbs.	3,721,740	-	6,761,075

26. The increase of sugar and rum was, I have no doubt, the effect of the stimulus of high prices inducing extended cultivation; and the augmented export of coffee is generally attributed to the increase of the number of smaller farmers, who cultivate this article upon their own lands and prepare it for market. The necessary processes for that purpose do not demand for their successful conduct and economical result, either the application of capital or the care and science which are essential, if not to the manufacture of the produce of the sugar cane with any profit at all, yet certainly to the attainment of the highest profit of which that manufacture is susceptible.

Shipping.

27. The returns of shipping show a total tonnage of ninety-four thousand eight hundred and seventy-eight (94,878) tons entered at ports in the colony, of which ten thousand and sixty (10,060) tons were in ballast. The tonnage cleared was ninety-two thousand one hundred and three (92,103) tons, of which twenty thousand two hundred and forty (20,240) tons was in ballast, the latter principally to the United States and the Spanish West Indies.

The crews of the vessels engaged in trade with Jamaica, amounted to four thousand six hundred (4,600) souls.

Agriculture.

28. There is little, I fear, to note for the year 1857 in regard to improvement in agriculture. I much question whether implements are so much used as was the case at one period since emancipation, but there is no doubt that far greater economy is observed in plantation management generally. The complaint that labour cannot be procured continuously and at critical periods in the progress of cultivation and manufacture, is very general, and is by no means to be discredited, because it is a fact that in some districts the resident supply is greater than the demand. The people are not disposed to migrate from the districts on which they and their forefathers have lived and settle permanently in other quarters. Even in the least fertile parts they can exist without labouring for hire, and many of them are satisfied with this almost aboriginal condition, so long as they can remain in their hereditary haunts.

29. With very rare exceptions, the adult population have gardens and provision grounds of their own, which demand their care to render them productive by eradicating weeds and otherwise assisting the growth of the various esculents that are the objects of cultivation, at precisely the very periods when the staple crops imperatively call for similar attention.

30. I believe this thoroughly engrained habit of cultivating lands for the production of food, which formed a prominent feature of the system of slavery in Jamaica, to be the cause of its prostration as an exporting agricultural country, more than any other of the numerous unfavourable circumstances which have marked the history of the island since freedom was declared.

31. It is gratifying to be able to conclude this notice of the principal statistics of the colony during the year 1857, by recording that the returns under the head of gaols and prisoners, show that, although the population amounts to about three hundred and eighty thousand (380,000), one hundred and sixty-two persons was the total number brought to trial for crimes and offences of a felonious character.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. Sir E. B. Lytton, Bart., &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) C. H. DARLING.

P.S.—If no objection presents itself to you, Sir, I shall be glad if my despatch No. 131 of the 20th October last, relative to the Cayman Islands, might be regarded as a part or section of this report.

C. H D.

CAYMAN ISLANDS.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor DARLING to the Right Honourable Sir EDWARD BULWER LYTTON, Bart.

(No. 131.) King's House, October 20, 1858.

SIR, (Received Nov. 20, 1858.)

WHEN I visited the island of Grand Cayman in the month of June last, I ascertained many particulars of the state of the Cayman group, and the condition of their inhabitants. I have since my return obtained additional details, and I beg to submit an abstract of the whole for your information in the following report:—

Population.

2. The population of the Grand Caymans is at present about two thousand two hundred (2,200), of the Little Cayman about one hundred (100); on the Cayman Brach it is confined to a very few temporary sojourners there; about nine hundred (900) of these are blacks, the remainder, with very few exceptions, of the mixed race. The sexes are about equal in number, and the proportion of children under 14 about the same as in other tropical communities. Several hundreds of the inhabitants migrated to the Bay islands shortly after the emancipation of the slaves, there is consequently family connexion between the population of the two groups and frequent intercourse is maintained.

Religious Persuasion.

3. The great majority of the present inhabitants profess to belong to the Presbyterian Church of Scotland. This results from the circumstance that since the death, a few years

CAYMAN ISLANDS.

ago, of a clergyman of the Church of England (the Reverend Mr. Sharpe), who was the first minister of religion ever stationed in these islands, and to whose zealous efforts amongst the people abundant testimony was rendered to me, that church seems to have relaxed its care of this portion of its flock; and the Presbyterian Church, principally supported by the mission board of the "United Presbyterian Church" of Scotland, has stepped in and supplied its place.

Missionaries and Schoolmasters.

4. Two missionaries and three trained schoolmasters are maintained in the island mainly by the funds of that society. The annual expenditure of the mission board in aid of churches and schools is about four hundred and thirty pounds (430*l.*), the local contributions amount only to about fifty pounds (50*l.*)

District Churches and School Houses.

5. The island is divided into five districts, in each of which there is a place of worship. I visited that situated at George Town; it is of the plainest description of architecture and material, and capable of containing about four hundred (400) people. I was informed that the chapel at Bodden Town on the south coast of the island is similar in appearance and construction to that at George Town, but rather more capacious. The other three places of worship are of smaller dimensions. They are all served by the two missionaries stationed in the island; those situated in the more populous districts being of course opened for public worship more frequently than the others. The total membership of the churches is about three hundred and fifty (350), and the number of attendants at public worship is upwards of seven hundred (700). I derive these figures from the Presbyterian Church Mission stationed in Jamaica. Besides the three day schools the average attendance at which is from about one hundred and fifty (150) to one hundred and eighty (180). There are Sabbath schools at the several stations (six in number) which are attended by about five hundred (500) persons, chiefly youths.

6. The schoolroom at George Town is commodious and well supplied with school requisites. It is used also for the holding of the magistrates courts, and for the meetings of the local vestry.

Pursuits of the People.

7. The pursuits of the people are shipbuilding, turtle fishing on the coasts of Cuba and the adjoining cays, breeding cattle, and a small description of horses, with the production of the ordinary tropical fruits. These resources are eked out by wrecking, for which the dangers of the opposite coast of Cuba and of the Grand Cayman itself, which is reef bound except upon a portion of its western shore, afford large opportunities.

Shipping.

8. There are at present twenty-one vessels owned in the island; the vary in tonnage from fifty to twelve (50 to 12) tons, and are manned by crews of from six or seven for the larger, and three for the smallest size.

Ship Building.

9. With the exception of one, which is American, these vessels are all built in the island of Grand Cayman. The timber is mahogany, the growth of the island, of which valuable tree I am informed there is a great abundance; the copper nails are fashioned in the island from metal obtained from wrecks, and are said to be of superior workmanship. The other requisite materials are obtained from Jamaica.

10. A vessel which I saw upon the stocks was commended for model and strength of construction by a naval officer of experience who was with me.

Disposal of Produce.

11. The turtle is disposed of to homeward bound merchant ships from Jamaica; the demand I understand sometimes exceeds the supply. When I was at the Grand Cayman this delicacy could not be procured. Their fruit and tropical vegetables, together with poultry, of which they rear a considerable quantity, also find a ready market on board passing merchantmen, and occasionally Her Majesty's cruisers.

Agriculture.

12. The cultivation of the soil is carried on in very small farms or gardens, and entirely by means of the hoe and cutlass; neither carts or ploughs, nor other machines or implements worked by animal labour, being employed. Besides the ordinary fruit and vegetables of the climate they raise a little corn (maize) and guinea corn or millet.

Stock.

13. The number of cattle in the Grand Cayman is believed to be about one thonsand (1,000), and of horses from three to four hundred (300 to 400); but the information given to me upon this point did not profess to be very accurate. There are also a few sheep, apparently of an inferior kind; these are sometimes sold to the shipping. Their price at the time of my visit was about twenty-five shillings (1*l.* 5*s.*) apiece. Domestic fowls were about one shilling apiece; and their horses, of a handy description (mere ponies in stature), were valued at from five to seven pounds each.

14. I was informed that during recent years some thirty or forty of these animals had been annually conveyed to and sold in Jamaica, but it was regretted that this branch of trade was falling off.

Roads.

15. There is one so called road round the island, and three which traverse it. These lines of communication are however mere bridle tracks, and are kept in a passable state at an expenditure of less than fifty pounds (50*l.*) a year, which amount the vestry raise under local regulations.

Medical Men.

16. There is no medical man in the island. The inhabitants affirm the climate to be very healthy; but upon this and other points relating to the physical description of the island, I would beg to refer to a document transmitted by my predecessor with his Despatch, No. 18., of 9th February 1854, which emanated from the present senior magistrate, Mr. Eden, and another intelligent resident at Grand Cayman. During the short period which has elapsed since that document was drawn up the physical characteristics of the islands have not of course altered.

Lawyers.

17. There is no attorney, solicitor, or other professional lawyer residing in the islands.

Minerals and Manufactures.

18. There are no indications of minerals, nor is any manufacture (except ship building) carried on.

Moral Condition of the Inhabitants.

19. With respect to the moral condition of the inhabitants, I was assured, by more than one of the magistrates, that, owing to the great change which had resulted from the zealous exertions of the Ministers of the Gospel who have of late years laboured amongst them, concubinage is rare, serious crime almost unknown, and that minor offences are very few, while the places of public worship are well attended.

Political and Administrative Condition.

20. The political and administrative condition of the islands is unsatisfactory and anomalous. Although understood to be attached to one of the western parishes of Jamaica, and believed as I found to belong to each of three parishes, neither the laws nor the institutions of the colony practically extend to them. I believe the only instance in which the laws of Jamaica distinctly recognize the Caymans is in directing the remission of duties upon goods exported to them from Jamaica.

21. Magistrates, with jurisdiction restricted to the islands, are appointed by the Governor of Jamaica, and during many years a custos was also nominated, in imitation or pursuance of the system which prevails in Jamaica. Upon the occasion of the last vacancy, however, no resident, considered at all qualified for the office, could be found willing to undertake it.

CAYMAN ISLANDS.

22. It appears that on the 5th December 1831, the inhabitants assembled and took steps for forming a constitution of their own, which is thus described in the prefatory pages of an imperfect manuscript copy of the "Local Laws of Grand Cayman," now before me, viz., Grand Cayman.

"At a meeting held at St. James's on the 5th December 1831, it was resolved that "representatives should be elected for the different districts throughout the island, for "the purpose of framing local laws for its better government. The representatives for "the different districts were accordingly elected on the 10th of same month, and met at "George Town said island pursuant to advertisement, on the 31st December 1831, and "on the 2d January 1832. The magistrates also assembled, but did not sit in the same "room with the representatives, forming as it were two houses, in imitation of the "Council and Assembly of Jamaica; and no law formed or passed by the representatives "to be deemed valid until it has received the assent of the magistrates. The names of "the magistrates and representatives are as follow:—John Drayton, Esq., senior magis- "trate, Robert Stephen Watler, Warde W. Bodden, John S. Jackson, James Coe, "junior, Abraham A. Feurtado, Ebin T. Parsons, and Nath. Glover, Esquires, magis- "trates, and George W. Wood, James H. Wood, James Coe, senior, W. Eden, junior, "John Goodhem, James Parsons, senior, William James Bodden, Thomas Lindsay "Thomson, Samuel Parsons, and William Bodden, vestrymen."

23. The earlier proceedings of this self-constituted legislature are frequently adverted to in the despatches of one of my predecessors, the Marquis of Sligo, and the tendency of some of the local regulations which were adopted is decribed by his lordship.

24. At a later date, namely, in November 1837, the magistrates and representatives passed a resolution declaring that henceforth their meetings should be designated meetings of the "justices and vestry," but the resolutions of this new body have, I observe, assumed the form of enactments; and many of the subjects to which they refer are such as generally constitute the subjects of state legislation.

25. Under those regulations, however, and a species of customary law which has been in operation for more than one generation, questions respecting property are adjudicated and offenders tried and sentenced for capital offences. At this moment an appeal relating to the inheritance of land is before me, and was made in accordance with precedent, although the Governor of Jamaica has, I conceive, no legal power to interfere in such questions; and three years have scarcely elapsed since an offender was tried by the magistrates of Grand Cayman for murder, and sentenced to imprisonment for life.

26. The prisoner was forwarded to the Kingston Penitentiary, where he remained until I recently remitted the unexpired period of his sentence, in consequence partly of the legal irregularity of the proceedings against him and partly of his extremely good conduct in the penitentiary.

27. However objectionable it may be that a body of Her Majesty's subjects should at the present day constitute a society so little under the influence of law and government, yet I believe that the inhabitants generally are not dissatisfied with its present state in this respect. The sentiments of the magistrates and principal residents are conveyed in an address which they were good enough to present to me, and a copy of which I have the honour to enclose.

Enclosure, 19th June 1858.

28. In reply I thanked them orally for the welcome they had afforded me, and invited them to a free discussion upon their public affairs.

29. I found the subject-matter of many of their representations to be beyond the effective reach of Government, such as slackness in the little trade they ever had enjoyed (arising no doubt from the paucity of exchangeable commodities of native production), and a diminution in the number of wrecks; the latter subject was referred to, apparently in perfect simplicity, as if it were one of just lamentation and regret.

30. They complained, however, that their fishing off the cays on the coast of Cuba was now interfered with by the government of that island, in localities where they had formerly been permitted to enjoy it; but, upon pressing my inquiries, I found that this complaint rested much upon the question, what is, according to international law, to be considered an uninhabited island; and that the cays from whose shores they had been warned off, though uninhabited during the greater part of the year, were occupied during the remainder by one or two families, or perhaps only as many individuals, being Spanish subjects.

CAYMAN ISLANDS.

31. I gathered from the persons with whom I conversed that the Caymanese have abandoned the pretensions advanced in the memorial transmitted in Sir Henry Barkly's Despatch, No. 18, of 9th February 1854, and their desires now seemed limited to the provisions of a small salary for the maintenance of a stipendiary magistrate.

32. I propose to apply to the Legislature of Jamaica to make a grant for this purpose upon a very moderate scale; and to base the application in some degree upon the fact that the Caymanese vessels have been hitherto dealt with in respect to tonnage duties as foreign vessels. I shall also suggest to the legislature, in the event of the proposal being favourably received, to discontinue the system of granting the drawback upon imported goods exported from Jamaica to the Cayman Islands (which, however, only amounted in 1857 to fifty-nine pounds seven shillings and threepence (*59l. 7s. 3d.*)

33. If the magistrate should also hold the commission of sub-collector of customs, he might receive, in addition to his salary, a commission upon the value of the few goods which are imported into Grand Cayman direct from the United States, which, however, is at present very inconsiderable.

34. I have also taken steps to obtain a complete copy of the rules and resolutions which pass under the name of the "Local Laws of Grand Cayman;" and I shall consult with the attorney general as to the best mode of revising and digesting these, with a view to giving legal effect through the medium of an Act of the legislature of Jamaica, to such of them as appear unobjectionable.

35. As to placing the Cayman Islands under a distinct but subordinate administration, I am satisfied they do not possess the proper material for such an organization, even upon the simple system which prevails in the Bay Islands.

36. I have no doubt that the wish of the inhabitants, or rather of those principal inhabitants with whom I communicated, is, that one of themselves should be appointed to the magistracy if established; but I cannot recommend that arrangement; and if I succeed in obtaining from the Jamaica legislature the necessary authority and means to carry the proposed measure into effect, I shall of course await the intimation of your commands before I take any step whatever for that purpose.

37. In closing this despatch I would beg to observe that the records of the colonial office during the administration of the Marquis of Sligo will, I conclude, afford the fullest information as to the circumstances under which the former slave owners of the Cayman Islands lost the benefit of the four years apprenticeship of their former slaves.

38. I have understood that a balance of the parliamentary grant of twenty millions for slave compensation is still undisposed of. If this be the case, Her Majesty's Government might perhaps be induced to consider whether any portion of it could be applied under parliamentary enactment for the purpose, to the benefit of the Caymanese community, in consideration of the diminution of its material wealth which the loss of the apprenticeship may have occasioned.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. Sir E. B. Lytton, Bart., &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) C. H. DARLING.

Enclosure. Encl. in No. 7.

The humble Petition of the Inhabitants of Grand Cayman.

To his Excellency C. H. Darling, Esq., Governor of Jamaica, &c. &c.

May it please your Excellency,

THE suddenness of the occasion allows us but a brief opportunity to express the gratification afforded us by your Excellency's visit to our shores, while we deplore our inability to give a public demonstration of our joy in a proper reception of your Excellency as the representative of our august sovereign Queen Victoria.

The state of our island, morally, is greatly improved; temporally, it is retrogressive; politically, it is loyal; but, judicially, we must confess, laxity. Repeated failures to obtain, in our isolated position, timely assistance, protection, or notice either from the Home or Colonial Government, have induced an apathy to public affairs injurious to the well-being of the community; besides which, the position of those in authority is such, that one is wholly engrossed with his private affairs, another is unable to devote his time gratuitously for the public good, and another wearied with unavailing efforts for the amelioration of the public condition ceases to strive; and to day our reminiscences of the past compared with the present is a source of grief to us.

JAMAICA.

In your Excellency's visit we hail the dawn of better things, and humbly desire to be instructed and assisted according to your Excellency's superior judgment.

With earnest desires towards the welfare of your Excellency, and the continued prosperity of your Government, we beg to subscribe ourselves,

Your Excellency's

Most obedient humble servants,

(Signed) W. EDEN, sen., J.P.
JAS. COE.
EDWARD PARSONS, J.P.
THOS. S. WATTIS, sen., Capt. M.
J. BERNARD.
W. N. THOMPSON.
J. J. WOOD.
WILLIAM B. WEBSTER.

19th June 1858.

In behalf of the inhabitants of Grand Cayman.

(True copy.)

(Signed) HUGH W. AUSTIN,
Secretary.

HONDURAS.

HONDURAS.

No. 8.

No. 8.

COPY of DESPATCH from Governor DARLING to the Right Hon. Lord STANLEY.

(No. 29.) King's House, Jamaica, June 8, 1858.

MY LORD, (Received July 3, 1858.)

No. 42. of 16 May 1858. I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith a Despatch from the Superintendent of Honduras, transmitting the Blue Book of that settlement for the year 1857.

I have, &c.

(Signed) C. H. DARLING.

The Right Hon. Lord Stanley,
&c. &c. &c.

Encl. in No. 8.

Enclosure in No.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Mr. Superintendent SEYMOUR to Governor DARLING.

(No. 42.)

SIR, Belize, May 16, 1858.

No. 5. 11 Feb. 1857. No. 6. 11 Feb. 1857. No. 7. 11 Feb. 1857. No. 8. 11 Feb. 1857. No. 9. 16 Feb. 1857. No. 10. 16 Feb. 1857. No. 11. 16 Feb. 1857. No. 12. 16 Feb. 1857. No. 13. 16 Feb. 1857. No. 14. 20 Feb. 1858.

I HAVE the honour to forward the Blue Book of this settlement for the year 1857. In doing so I may say at the outset that I feel myself relieved from the duty of minutely inquiring into the transactions of the year, by the reports, numbered and dated as in the margin, which my predecessor transmitted previous to his relinquishment of the conduct of affairs.

2. In the revenue there is an increase of 2,505*l.* 18*s.* 9*d.*, caused, to a great extent, by the circumstance that the Act imposing a tax on sugar and rum manufactured in the settlement was in operation during the whole of the year just elapsed, whereas in 1856 it only extended over the last four months. But this will only account for a part of the increase of receipts; and it is with pleasure that I call your attention to a general improvement in productiveness. Under one head only is there a decrease. The falling off in the tonnage duties is owing to the accidental circumstance of an unusually wet season, having prevented the removal of much of the mahogany cut during the year being conveyed from the forests where it grew within the influence of water carriage.

3. Across the columns headed "Public Debt" the Colonial Secretary has written the statement "balance in favour of the public on the 31st December 1857, 4,013*l.* 2*s.* 3*d.*"

4. Considerable progress has been made in the public works. The new gaol has approached sufficiently near completion to render it available for the reception of

prisoners. New schoolrooms are on the point of completion, which, it is estimated, will cost the settlement about 5,000*l.*

5. The legislative measures of the year were fully reported on by Mr. Superintendent Stevenson in the despatches already referred to.

6. The civil establishment presents no change, save in the persons of several public officers.

7. Under the head "pensions" will be found a description of our injudicious mode of providing for the destitute members of the community. The attention of the public has now, I think, been awakened to a sense of the inconvenience of the present system of affording relief, and I propose inviting the Legislative Assembly, at its next session, to remodel the poor laws.

8. I call attention to the list of foreign consuls, as doubts have been professed to be entertained by some persons as to the character of our territorial rights in British Honduras. It will be observed that Mexico is represented by a consul in Belize; Spain and Guatemala by vice-consuls. France likewise has a vice-consul at this port.

9. The population of the settlement is estimated by the Colonial Secretary at 19,000. I believe it to be much more considerable. I have received from the fathers of the society of Jesus a census recently taken roughly by them of such towns, villages, and mahogany works as are partially or entirely inhabited by Roman Catholics; but the list does not include places exclusively Protestant. I have added the race, as it may not be uninteresting to show the mixed nature of our population.

San Pedro - -	380	Spanish Yucatecan refugees.
Sarteneja - -	250	Yucatecos and Indians.
Punta Consego -	300	"
" Allegre -	100	"
Lourie's Bight - -	250	Yucatecos, Indians, and Creoles.
Corosal - -	4,500	Yucatecos principally, but some Indians and Creoles.
Pembroke Hall -	30	Creoles.
Santa Cruz - -	20	Yucatecos.
Caledonia - -	100	Creoles.
Narrows - -	2	Yucatecos.
Shecum - - -	60	"
San Esteban - -	1,300	"
Tower Hill - -	30	Creoles and Yucatecos.
Orange Walk - -	400	"
Richmond Hill -	50	Yucatecos and Indians.
Guinea Grass - -	150	Yucatecos and Creoles.
Smith Bank - -	30	Yucatecos.
Backlanding - -	150	Creoles and Indians.
Duck Run - -	300	Spaniards and Indians from Guatemala.
Moll Punch's Hole -	50	Creoles.
Sta. Elena - -	100	Yucatecos.
Sapote Chico - -	50	Ditto and Creoles.
Sapote Grande -	50	"
Douglas - -	300	Creoles.
Cocos - - -	100	Yucatecos and Indians.
San Antonio - -	200	Yucatecos.
Limones - -	30	"
Agua Blanca - -	30	"
Corosal Chico - -	400	"
Pinaba - -	50	"
Santa Cruz (Rio Hond.)	25	"
Rio Norte - -	300	Creoles and Yucatecos.
Rio Viego - -	1,200	"
Sibim - - -	150	Creoles and Indians.
Sapodilla Lagoon -	40	Charibs.
Gill's Point - -	200	Creoles.
Stanu Creek - -	1,100	Charibs.
Mullin's River -	400	Refugees from the State of Honduras.
Caucas Bight - -	30	Charibs.
Settee - - -	150	Charibs and Creoles.

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Lower Stanu Creek -	100	Charibs.
Jonathan's Point -	100	„
Hanlover - -	60	„
Silver Creek - -	150	„
Placencia - -	35	Creoles.
River Sanis - -	10	Charibs.
Ribartais - -	10	Ditto and Creoles.
Mono's River - -	67	„
Seven Hills - -	130	Charibs.
Punta Gorda - -	400	„
	13,419	
Belize - -	5,000	Persons from all parts of the civilized world.
Total -	18,419	

10. This census is obviously faulty, as any person acquainted with the settlement would at once mention half a dozen villages left out; nor does it include the many inhabited cays along the coast, nor the forests where thousands of Indians are believed to lurk. A census of British Honduras must for many years to come be founded on conjecture. But there can be no doubt that the population is increasing daily; and this flourishing settlement presents a striking contrast to the neighbouring province of Yucatan. In a "memoria" laid before the congress at Merida by the Secretary to Government on the 20th July 1857, it is stated that the census of 1854 showed only a population of 256,381 inhabitants, whereas that of 1841 gave 504,635, a decrease of 248,254. The Secretary Pindo accounts for it by civil wars, cholera, smallpox, and also, perhaps, from the circumstance that the census of 1854 is probably not so correct as that of 1841. But, with a population which at the lowest computation is still about ten times that of this settlement, the revenue of Yucatan only exceeds that of British Honduras, where the taxation is lighter than in any of our West Indian Colonies, by 24,000 dollars.

11. I trust that on a future occasion I shall be able to give a fuller account of this settlement, so interesting and so little known. The history of the most eventful portion of 1857 has been already given by Mr. Stevenson, and if I were to repeat it on this occasion, I should do so best by transcribing his own words; besides, it is not alien to the subject of a despatch which purports to treat of the progress and present state of the settlement to say that if I were to be more diffuse I could not, with the present present pressure of business, get my communication copied. The greater portion of these remarks were written previous to the departure of the April packet; but, though I was then giving and still offering thirty shillings a day for additional clerical assistance, every person of education in the settlement was so fully occupied, or so independent, that the Blue Book of Honduras had to be kept back for a month. It is hardly an inappropriate termination to a report on the present state of the settlement to mention that this and several other of the despatches I am addressing to your Excellency will be sent off at daybreak to-morrow to be copied for signature in Corosal, 90 miles off, and that the small vessel which proceeds specially on this voyage, and will have to wait for the papers, is manned by a crew receiving four shillings a day a head and rations. I cannot give a better proof of the prosperity of the settlement than by showing what salaries and wages the profits of trade will allow the merchants and mahogany cutters of Honduras to give.

I have, &c.

(Signed) FREDERICK SEYMOUR.

His Excellency Governor Darling,
&c. &c. &c.

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No. 9.

No. 9.

Copy of DESPATCH from Governor Bayley to the Right Honourable Sir E. B. Lytton, Bart.

(No. 79.) Government House, Nassau, Bahamas, July 20, 1858.

(Received September 18, 1858.)

Sir,

I have the honour herewith to transmit the Blue Book of the Bahamas for 1857.

2. It is not in my power to picture a striking advance in the prosperity of the colony, nor ought I to feel surprised at this inability when I consider how small is our population in proportion to the number and size of the islands over which it is diffused, and recollect its antecedent history. But it is satisfactory that I am able to report a certain increase both in the value of colonial exports and the amount of colonial revenue for the year 1857, as compared with the year 1856.

Revenue.

3. The nett revenue for the year 1856 was 25,120*l.*, that for 1857 was 30,592*l.*; but of this, I gather from a report made to me by the receiver-general, the whole was not paid into the treasury during that year, the practice being to enter all duties to the credit of the treasury when the goods are imported, but to take bonds for their payment at six months' date. According to this practice some portion of the 30,592*l.* only became payable *after* the commencement of the present year. In fact we had to borrow 1,000*l.* from the bank at the beginning of this year for defraying the ordinary expenses of the government; but I believe there is every probability of our being able to liquidate this debt before the end of 1858.

Exports and Imports.

4. The exports of produce raised in the colony exhibit a gratifying increase, for while those of 1856 just reached to 36,000*l.* those of 1857 amounted to more than 52,000*l.* The principal increase was in the articles of pineapples, sponges, and shells; of the first-named fruit no less a quantity than 120,000 dozen was exported in the course of last year to the United Kingdom and the United States; and I am happy to add that this species of cultivation is likely to develope itself still further in the islands of Eleuthera, and San Salvador. But while I contemplate with just satisfaction this progress in one branch of colonial industry, I regret to announce the decline of another and once a more important staple. The exports of salt are not only not increasing, but are positively falling off in value; for while in 1856 they reached 9,475*l.*, in 1857 they did not exceed 9,151*l.* I fear that, in truth, the manufacture of salt in these islands is in a most precarious position; various causes have contributed to its instability: labour is dear, desultory, and inadequate; the seasons capricious; the capital of the manufacturers scant and insufficient. When the weather is favourable the labourers go a-wrecking; or, if they stay, haggle for an impossible rate of wages. By the time that they have made up their minds to labour, and their work is half done, the rain comes down and spoils all the salt which they have made. It is the perpetual repetition of this barren process, this iteration of fruitless effort and defeated purpose, which inspires the salt makers with disgust and despair. At the present moment I am informed that there is lying in the ponds of Inagua a greater quantity of salt than has been made for many years past, but no offers within the means of the proprietors, can induce the people to help in raking it out of the pans; consequently, there is every prospect of the crop being lost. Evils of this kind might be remedied by one of two alternative conditions, each of which, I fear, is equally remote. If the native labourers were more numerous and more eager for employment, or if the proprietors possessed ampler means of introducing foreign labour, the tantalizing vexations and risks to which I have just alluded could never occur, and the salt proprietors might, without eventual loss, submit to a diminution of price equal to that which now affects their interests. This depreciation in the markets of the United States, has, I am told, been caused by a growing preference of English salt, which is now used for purposes to which it was once supposed that Bahama salt was exclusively adapted. I believe that the competition of English salt would not, by itself, injuriously affect our island salt proprietors. It is only when combined with

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their want of labour, and of capital, that it helps to produce that distrust and discouragement which so generally prevail among them.

Before I quit this portion of my subject, I would beg leave to draw your attention to the signal excess of imports and exports. The *total* value of the latter is 140,195*l.* (inclusive of wrecked property re-exported,) of the former 211,423*l.* Now, this excess is not exceptional and unusual. It is the normal relation of exports and imports in this colony. I believe the phenomenon may be explained by the fact that the declared value of our exports is far below their real value in the markets in which they are sold. A higher price is paid to the Nassau merchant for the fruit which he exports than he or his agent pays to the cultivator of whom he bought it, and the latter again probably underrates the value of the produce which he has sold; and I have reason to believe that of wrecked property salved here and re-exported to the United States (as it generally is) the value declared here is considerably below the money received for it. These differences between real and official prices, combined with the expenditure for the troops, will, I believe, nearly suffice to adjust the balance between the value of our imports and that of our exports.

I now proceed to the important subject of education.

Education.

5. Treating, Sir, of this subject, I am happy to draw your attention, as I drew that of Mr. Labouchere, to the instance of laudable, and I believe, exceptional liberality displayed by the local legislature. Poor as this colony may be, possessing no large commercial relations, ungifted with extraordinary natural resources, and with such resources as it does possess slightly and imperfectly developed; it yet expends upon the education of its poorer classes a larger proportion of its means than many other colonies which boast of far greater wealth. With a population of not more than 28,000 souls, and a revenue which does not average more than 29,000*l.*, it bestows 1,500*l.* a year on the instruction of some 2,000 children, while schools under the auspices of the Church of England educate 1,100 more. Did the practical results of this education, as illustrated by the dispositions, characters, and opinions of its recipients, more adequately correspond to the retentiveness of their memories or the aptness of their answers at their school examinations, the whole system would deserve unmixed commendation. But we are discovering here what they have already discovered in England, viz., that to impart the arts of reading and writing, or to cram the memory with scriptural phrases or historical facts, is not to do all that is required for the instruction of the poor; still there must be some few superior minds on which this teaching falls with good and fertilizing effect. These may in their turn influence others, and in future years fruits may be discovered, which it has not hitherto been our good fortune to witness, and perhaps it might be justly supposed that, whatever may be the faults observable in those adults whose education has been received in our government schools or in those of the church, they are small compared with those which might have been imputed to them, had they been left to grow up amidst the ignorance, idleness, and prejudices of their own semi-barbarous and uneducated parents. While I thus regret that education has not done all that it was expected to do for the poorer classes of our community, I equally regret that for those of a higher grade it can be hardly said to exist at all. There is not in the Bahamas any public, and, indeed there is hardly any private education for those youths who intend devoting themselves to commercial or professional life. This leads me towards a subject on which I propose to do myself the honour of specially addressing you at some future time, one, that is important both here and elsewhere, as involving the suggestion of a remedy for evils felt not less in other colonies than in this. I have stated that here no organization exists for giving a liberal education to the sons of the more affluent and prominent members of society. A few years ago there was a collegiate institution in Nassau, but this I am informed fell to the ground in one of those contests which too often spring from questions of colour and race in tropical colonies; and now the sons of our merchants, lawyers, and doctors, are forced either to dispense with a liberal education altogether or to go to the United States to complete their studies under teachers and a system which are, as far as possible, unlike English teachers and English teaching. Should it at any time be my good fortune to see a public academical institution re-organized here, I shall feel it my duty to lay before you a proposition for connecting it with one of the distinguished seats of learning in England by the bond of foundation endowments. For I am confident that the best mode of imparting to the young men of an English colony the tone of English manners and sympathy with English feelings, is to furnish them with some inducement to com-

plete their course of study at one of those institutions in which the minds and tastes of successive generations of English gentlemen have been formed; but the proposition is too wide to be mooted thus parenthetically in a Blue Book report; I therefore reserve its ampler discussion for a separate despatch.

Summary.

6. I fear that this report of the prospects of the colony is not on the whole more encouraging than was that of last year. I still adhere to the general tenor of the opinions which I then expressed, and I see little reason to modify the terms in which some of them were embodied. I still believe (as is believed by others possessing larger and longer experience than myself) that it will be vain to expect from this people that continuous and assiduous devotion to manual industry, which alone could assure the success of great agricultural or manufacturing enterprises. But although they are not likely to emulate the industrial energy of the free labourer in Europe, or realise the results of slave labour in the Tropics, I still think that they will continue to make a slow but defined advance in the cultivation of their own grounds and the production of those fruits and cereals, which, while they suit the genius of the soil are profitable for exportation or necessary for the subsistence of their cultivators. The progress which they have made at the out islands of Eleuthera and San Salvador shows what they are able to do as petty proprietors. Indeed the love of the soil and the desire to have a proprietary right in its possession, are as strongly innate characteristics of the negro Creole as of the Hindoo or the Irishman. As proprietors, working on their own account, they will toil more constantly than they ever would consent to do as hired labourers; and so slight is their providence or ambition that they would, as a class, infinitely rather eke out a bare subsistence by moderate labour on their own small holdings, than earn the means of augmenting their property by working as hirelings for others. Thus, there is little reason to expect that, notwithstanding the favourable conditions of soil and climate, they will ever assist to raise in any quantity those staple articles of sugar and cotton which were raised so abundantly in the olden time. The want of physical energy and of moral resolution which so signally distinguishes the character of the African, forbid such an expectation. But it is some consolation to reflect that the same want of energy which renders him an unequal competitor with his English compeer in the field of peaceful industry, makes him also a humble and distant rival in the arena of violence and strife. If the Creole is not so constant, so conscientious, or so efficient a labourer at one time, neither is he at other times so reckless, so hotheaded, or so violent a peace-breaker, as our English or Irish working man. That he is contented with small enjoyments, and prefers repose to the exertion by which he could enlarge them, may be regretted by the financier, the capitalist, and the political economist: but it can hardly, of itself, be condemned as a vicious defect in his moral constitution. We way lament that such is the case. We may deplore the consequences which flow from it. We may regret to see opportunities of colonial and imperial wealth lost to us and our dependencies. We may sigh as we trace the ruins of an obsolete industry, or track the half-concealed roads that once intersected flourishing plantations: and we may repine at the fortune which has requited our benevolence by transferring our wealth and prosperity to less just or less self-denying rivals. But, while we murmer, we can hardly censure. The African never told us in the day of bondage that, when he was free, he would work for us. His industry was vouched by others, never by himself. He never deceived us. We deceived ourselves or allowed others to deceive us on his behalf. Indeed, he told us then that he would be idle, when and as long as he had the power; and he has kept his word handsomely. We therefore cannot justly blame him for the non-fulfilment of stipulations which neither he nor his fathers contracted, and for the disappointment of hopes which neither of them encouraged. What he is now in the full ear, he was then in the germ. And it might not be difficult to find both an explanation and a palliation of conduct which often vexes our self-interest and our self-love. It is true that (speaking generally) he is lazy and apathetic, that he over-estimates his capacity and acquirements, that he confounds civil freedom with social equality, that he repudiates as dishonourable, or at least as discreditable, those terms by which in the civilized states of Europe the relations of employer and employed are described alike without arrogance and without shame. These allegations are, in the main, (though of course, with some few exceptions) true. But much of what they convey may be palliated by antecedent circumstances; by the bitter recollections of obsolete slavery; by the acrimonious denunciations lavished on those who had an interest in it by those who had none; by the sectarian animosity which pervaded the teachings of the negro slave's instructors, by the high-toned assertion of his unqualified right to freedom; and, not least, by his own sanguine anticipation of the illimitable indulgence which

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freedom was destined to confer. All these things, followed by an education which, I think, does teach pretentiousness, and may teach hypocrisy, could hardly fail to render him such as he is. Nor should it be forgotten that here (as probably elsewhere through the West Indies,) the African Creole has not enjoyed that beneficent influence which has done so much to correct and mould the characters of the labouring classes at home. Remove the English labourer from contact with the ranks above him, from communion with the squire, from consultation with the rector, from the considerate benevolence of the squire's or the rector's wife; and what becomes him? Compare the counties where the resident gentry and clergy are numerous with those where there are few gentry or clergy, and how marked is the difference. Compare too, those manufactures where the employers are men of education and refinement with those where they are neither educated nor refined, and note the difference in the manners and demeanour of the artizans. Here and in many other islands there has long ceased to be (if ever there existed) a class of society with the leisure and the disposition to devote itself to the amenities of life. We have no grade exempted from the cares and struggles of professional rivalry or mercantile competition, and free to expend its time on the cultivation of the gentler humanities. The white proprietor of former days probably was more frequently anxious to secure a quick return for the capital which he had invested in cotton or slaves than to improve the moral condition of his prædial labourers. But the white proprietor of that stamp exists no more. His representative of modern times is perhaps not much less solicitous than his predecessors for the security of his investments, and is perhaps too much disgusted with the apathy or inertness of his negro servants to expend time or thought on an analysis of the defects by which he himself suffers. In short, the negro Creole is rarely subjected to influences which can elevate or refine him. I do not ascribe much value to the use of the religious phraseology with which he sometimes interlards his conversation, and which I do not think is of much advantage in forming his character. Left, therefore, to himself, he is gradually forming for himself and his class opinions which, whether for good or for evil, are of a negative rather than of a positive character. I do not think that, in these islands at least, he is likely to be excited to crimes of violence. But I think he will remain equally insensible to high aspirations and incapable of that resolute perseverance which an ingenuous ambition inspires. He will probably continue to repine in silence at what he considers an unfair inequality between himself and the white population; but he will in only rare instances attempt to emulate that industry, that economy, that self-denial, that stubborn perseverance, by which the lower orders of the race he envies have so often acquired for themselves wealth, station, and importance.

7. I have dwelt so long upon this part of the subject, because it involves considerations of immediate relevancy to the future prospects of this colony. Our poverty is mainly attributable to two causes, the paucity and the inertness of our ex-apprentice population. They can all live with little labour, and they have no ambition to do more than live; but it would be unfair to conceal the existence of other causes nearly as powerful as these. We are isolated from the world. We have not much more than a monthly communication with England by our mail schooner. Our relations with the United States are those of a petty traffic rather than an established commerce. I feel assured that our condition might be signally improved by the establishment of regular steam communication with New York. It would give an impetus and extension at once to our fruit trade. It would bring to our islands Americans not only as visitors, but as settlers and speculators. It would ultimately substitute men of capital for men of no capital. It would gradually bribe the energy of native or the adventurousness of foreign labour; and thus it would develop in our out islands resources which are imperfectly known to the residents. More than this, it would fix the connecting link of communication between the Transatlantic and the West India steamers, forming, so to speak, a circuit of navigation which would have both its commencement and its termination in England, and include in its course the United States and the West India Islands. I think it superfluous to dilate on the great advantages which such a communication could not fail to confer not only on these islands, but on the western commerce of Great Britain.

With these observations I conclude the Report which I have the honour to transmit.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. J. BAYLEY,
Governor.

The Right Hon. Sir E. B. Lytton, Bart.
&c. &c. &c.

TURKS ISLANDS.

No. 10.

COPY of DESPATCH from the Governor DARLING to the Right Hon. Sir E. B. LYTTON, Bart.

(No. 30.)

King's House, Jamaica, July 9, 1858.

SIR, (Received August 2, 1858.)

IN transmitting the accompanying Despatch from the President of the Turks and Caicos Islands, forwarding the Blue Book for the year 1857, I beg leave to enclose a copy of the letter which I have addressed to Mr. Inglis in reply; and, in fulfilment of the intimation therein made, I beg to invite your attention to the suggestion made by Mr. Inglis, that the Church Missionary Aid Society might be induced to extend their operations to the Turks Islands. Enclosure 1. Enclosure 2.

2. I think that the President is under a mistaken impression with respect to the difficulty of furnishing a comprehensive statement of the revenue and expenditure of the Presidency, which I have in my reply to his despatch endeavoured to remove.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. Sir E. B. Lytton, Bart. (Signed) C. H. DARLING.
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure 1. in No. 10.

(Separate, No. 40.)

SIR, Government House, Grand Turk, June 17, 1858.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the Blue Book of this colony for 1857.

2. Referring to your Excellency's Despatch No. 19. of the 12th September 1857, paragraphs 4 and 5, I regret that the Colonial Secretary has been unable to meet the views therein expressed, further than by endeavouring to give a clearer exposition of the revenue of the colony, whether derived from customs' duties on imports and exports, raised by ordinances of the Legislative Council, and which may be more properly considered the colonial revenue, deposited in the colonial treasury, and under the control of the legislature, or from the salt pond rents and sale of Crown lands, which form Her Majesty's Crown Funds of the colony, and are under the sole control of Her Majesty's Government. To place these funds under incidental revenue, as your excellency suggested, appears to be impracatible, as long as they remain unfused with the colonial revenue, and are collected and disbursed by another officer than the receiver-general.

3. The Crown Funds were, I believe, not originally intended to be used or considered as revenue, in the strict acceptation of the word, although the principle of their expenditure within the colony has been recognised as a just one. Their legitimate use was destined for the improvement of the salt ponds, and reclaiming uncultivated salinas, by which means the revenue and the colony generally would be benefited; for necessary public works, as well as for buildings of such descriptions as are called for, more particularly in a new colony, many of which undertakings, in consequence of these funds being diverted into other channels, have been delayed, and are still likely to be so, for an indefinite period. One of these necessary public works, viz., the defence from the encroachment of the sea on the west side of Grand Turk, which threatens destruction both to salinas and the town itself, and towards which incommensurate measures only can be taken from want of adequate means, would, if duly carried out, absorb of itself the Crown Funds for a series of years.

4. Should the estimates for 1859 receive the sanction of Her Majesty's Government, the sum of 500*l.*, which I have proposed to be paid for a term of years from the Crown Funds, in aid of the colonial revenue, (which will in fact be placing a certain portion of the Crown Fund at the disposition of the Legislative Council,) will appear in the Blue Book for that year under the head of incidental revenue. In the meanwhile, and in the absence of any other suggestion, the Crown Funds appear under the head of "local revenues" at page 34 of the present Blue Book.

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5. In order, however, to show more clearly the entire resources and expenditure of the colony, the Colonial Secretary has inserted an additional sheet at page 27 among the Blue Book returns, which, if considered unnecessary, can easily be withdrawn, without detriment to the rest, and does not interfere with the numerical succession of the other pages.

6. Thereon will be found an abstract of the total revenue, from whatever source derived, showing more clearly the existing financial resources of the colony, and correcting the erroneous impression which might arise from an inspection of the "Abstract of the net revenue and expenditure" wherein the words "total revenue" and "total expenditure" show only those arising and defrayed from customs' duties.

7. This additional statement shows the total revenual receipts of the colony in 1857 to have amounted to 11,100*l.* 17*s.* 11*d.*, viz:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
Arrears of general revenue from 1856				788	13	$10\frac{3}{4}$
Revenue from customs in 1857	5,938	19	2			
„ Incidental	13	11	10	5,952	11	0
				6,741	4	$10\frac{3}{4}$
Arrears of salt pond rentals from 1856	186	11	$3\frac{1}{4}$			
Balance from 1856	832	5	$2\frac{1}{2}$			
Salt pond rentals, 1857	3,287	6	$1\frac{3}{4}$			
Sales of Crown lands and other small receipts	53	10	$4\frac{3}{4}$			
				4,359	13	$0\frac{1}{4}$
Total receipts				11,100	17	11

It also shows the total expenditure to have amounted to 10,260*l.* 8*s.* $10\frac{3}{4}$*d.*, viz.:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Expenditure from colonial revenue	6,030	5	1
Expenditure from Crown Funds	4,230	3	$9\frac{3}{4}$
	10,260	8	$10\frac{3}{4}$

8. An idea has been obtained here, originated and fostered by designing persons desirous of establishing a grievance, and who are not wanting even among those from whom we have a right to expect better things, that in calculating the amount of individual taxation in this colony the Crown Funds should be considered a portion of that taxation, although it is well known that the proprietors of the salt ponds, the tenants of the Crown, receive generally not only far more than an equivalent for their rent, but, actually reversing the order of landlord and tenant, have a large proportion of it restored to them, in the shape of works connected with the salt ponds, the cost of which is defrayed from the Crown Funds, such as the repair of roads and bridges, cleansing of reservoirs and water-courses, erection of bridges, sluice-gates, and wind-machines, together with numerous other works for the general benefit of the lessees of the Crown, while in the expenditure unconnected with the ponds the salt pond proprietors participate in the benefit of such with the rest of the community.

9. Unthinking persons, however, are led to believe, that the revenue of the colony is raised by taxation alone, and that therefore the total revenue, from whatever source derived, divided by the population, leaves as a quotient the average amount of what is contributed by each individual in the colony towards the maintenance of the government.

10. These ideas were formally enunciated in a memorial addressed to your Excellency, transmitted in my Despatch (Separate), No. 22. of 10th October 1857, signed by 85 persons, representing the intelligence of the communities of Grand Turk and Salt Cay, against Ordinance No. 6. of 1857, providing a retiring allowance (after 39 years' service) for Mr. Hamilton, provost marshal, police magistrate, post officer, and superintendent of the lighthouse, in this colony.

11. Among other reasons assigned in the above memorial against this ordinance (which subsequently received Her Majesty's disallowance), it was stated "that the whole "expenditure of the colony is sustained by local taxation, which has already reached "to about 3*l.* on every inhabitant;" whereas I shall show, subsequently, that it does not exceed 1*l.* 1*s.* 5*d.* per head.

12. There is no West India colony sufficiently small in point of population wherewith to institute a comparison with the Turks and Caicos Islands, the last census of which in 1851 places the population at 3,250 souls, or somewhat less than three fifths of the population of Montserrat in the same year.

13. In the report of President Baynes, accompanying the Montserrat Blue Book for 1850, I find the ordinary individual taxation of that colony placed at 6*s.* 9½*d.* On examining, however, the per-centage on the relative amounts of duties on goods imported into these two colonies, it will be found to be nearly the same, viz. from 11¼ to 13 per cent. on their declared value, the only highly taxed import here being the article of ardent spirits, which if left out of the calculation would give the lesser per-centage; thus showing that the necessaries and luxuries of life must be, as far as customs' duties are concerned (our sole mode of taxation in this colony), about as cheap in Turks Islands, where individual taxation is apparently more than three times as high, as they are in Montserrat, where taxation is apparently so low.

14. Wages of common labourers in this colony, compared with what appears to be the rate in Montserrat, are never less than four times and are frequently six and even nine times higher than in Montserrat, thus causing a large consumption of the luxuries as well as the necessaries of life, and proving, that while taxation falls with no greater weight on the labourer of Turks Islands than on those at Montserrat, although the former resides in what may comparatively be considered a highly taxed colony, the superior condition of the labourer here is apparent from the comparative value of imports consumed, the average value of imports from 1853 to 1855, both years inclusive, at Montserrat, being 9,060*l.* per annum, while at Turks Islands, with a population of two fifths less, the average value of imports, commencing from the separation from the Bahama government in 1849 to 1857, amounts to 31,202*l.* 1*s.* 11½*d.* per annum, deducting from which the amount of imports re-exported, leaves an average value of imports actually consumed within this colony of 27,016*l.* 3*s.* per annum.

15. In praying for a separation from the Bahama government, the inhabitants of Turks Islands must have been aware that the revenue required for the maintenance of a separate government (more especially on the expensive scale on which this has been framed) could bear no due proportion to the limited population; and when the petitioners in the before mentioned memorial, which was signed by some of the chief promoters of that separation, made the statement that taxation had already reached to about 3*l.* per head, thereby plainly implying that taxation had been increased since the separation, they ignore in an unscrupulous manner, the well known fact of the tariff having been reduced in 1849 nearly 50 per cent. under that which preceded it. In corroboration of this statement, it is only necessary to mention, that the declared value of imports in 1849 amounted to 24,854*l.*, of which goods to the value of 5,149*l.* were re-exported, leaving the amount of imports entered for consumption in that year of the value of 19,705*l.*, the import duties on which amounted to 4,752*l.*, or about 24 per cent. on their declared value, while in 1850, under the new tariff, the declared value of imports amounted to 27,989*l.*, of which goods to the value of 4,174*l.* were re-exported, leaving the amount of imports entered for consumption of the value of 23,815*l.*, the import duties on which amounted to 2,946*l.*, or about 11¾ per cent. on their declared value.

16. I would here incidentally, in illustration of the tariff question as regards this colony, beg to quote a paragraph from my speech at the opening of the Legislative Council in 1857, in which I have shown that the increased imports following the reduction of the tariff have been owing, not to the reduction but to the increased prosperity of the colony consequent on the separation. "The large and progressive increase in the value of " imports since 1849 is a remarkable feature in the tabular statement, which is attributable " to the increased prosperity of the colony consequent on the separation. This is obvious " from the fact of the increased value of imports having been principally in dry goods, " the ad valorem duties on which were increased by the tariff of 1849 from 5 to 7½ per " cent. The receiver-general's published statements show that these ad valorem " duties collected under the old tariff amounted in 1849 to 407*l.* 19*s.* 5*d.*, in 1855 to " 1,066*l.* 14*s.* 10*d.*, and, taking the seven years from 1850 to 1856 inclusive, there is an " average of 773*l.* per annum arising from duties on dry goods. These statements also " show an increase in the amount of duties on brandy, rum, and gin, which were, as well " as the ad valorem duties, increased by the tariff of 1849, these duties amounting in " 1849 to 1,003*l.* 17*s.* 5*d.*, while the subsequent seven years give an average of " 1,113*l.* 17*s.* 1*d.* per annum."

17. Were it possible that the method adopted by the before-mentioned memorialists, of calculating the average individual taxation of this colony, could be admitted to be correct, it would be found to have amounted in 1856, the year previous to that in which the memorial was prepared, on the financial return of which it is to be presumed the calcula-

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tion was based, to 2*l.* 17*s.* 1½*d.* per head, the revenue derived from customs duties in that year amounting to - - - - - £5,806 7 6
Revenue derived from the Crown Funds in 1856 - 3,482 6 7

Total - - - £9,288 14 1

which amount, taking the population at 3,250 souls according to the census of 1851, would give the above result.

18. On the same principle of calculation it would be found that in 849, the first year of the separation, while the colony was still under the old Bahama tariff, the average individual taxation amounted to 3*l.* 4*s.* 6*d.* per head, the revenue derived from customs' duties in that year amounting to - - - - £7,202 10 2
Revenue derived from the Crown Funds in 1849 - 3,224 15 9

Total - - - £10,427 5 11

which amount, taking the population at 3,250 souls, will give the above result; thus showing, even by the fallacious mode of calculation adopted by these memorialists, a diminution of taxation in 1856 under that of 1849, of 17*s.* 4½*d.* per head.

19. In order to arrive at any result on this subject approximating to the truth, I would mention that the average annual sum collected as duties on imports into these islands from 1850 (commencing with the new tariff) to 1857, 8 years, both years inclusive, amounts to 3,752*l.* 14*s.* 5¾*d.* per annum, which, still retaining the population of the colony at 3,250 souls, would give an average individual taxation of 1*l.* 3*s.* 1*d.* per head, or, placing the population, as is more probably the case, at 3,500 souls, would give as a result 1*l.* 1*s.* 5*d.* as the average individual taxation in this colony, already mentioned at paragraph eleven of this report. With regard to the export duty of one farthing per bushel on salt, the manufacture of which is a monopoly, it cannot, I apprehend, be looked on as general taxation, more particularly as it is admitted, even by some of the salt rakers, that the export duty is paid by the purchaser.

Colonial Revenue and Expenditure. Imports and Exports.

20. The revenue from imports and exports and "other sources," such as light dues, fees of office, liquor licences, postages, contributions to widows' and orphans' fund, &c., for 1857, amounted to 5,952*l.* 10*s.*, which, though greater than that of 1856 by 146*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.*, fell short of the estimated revenue by 360*l.* 9*s.* The expenditure of 1857, arising out of provision made for the civil list by the annual appropriation and other ordinances of the legislature, amounted to 6,030*l.* 5*s.* 1*d.*, which, although exceeding the revenue by 77*l.* 15*s.* 1*d.*, was under the estimated expenditure by 314*l.* 3*s.* 8*d.*, and was less than the actual expenditure of 1856 by the amount of 94*l.* 10*s.* 5*d.*

21. The total declared value of imports in 1857 amounted to 33,418*l.* 2*s.* 10*d.*, against 33,523*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.* in 1856. The total value of exports amounted in 1857 to 29,274*l.* 9*s.* against 27,064*l.* 3*s.* 1*d.* in 1856.

22. In my report which accompanied the Blue Book for 1856 I adverted to the low condition to which (comparatively with that which preceded it) the existing tariff had been reduced, which as the principal means of revenue appeared to be unequal to the increasing exigencies of the colony. As the term of the present tariff, however, will expire in from three to four years from the present time, it might be inexpedient to attempt any revision of the same with a view to an increase on import duties until its expiration, during which period there is reason to believe that the resources of the colony will be on the increase, by the proposed settlement of the West Caicos, and the gradual development of Cockburn Harbour, East Caicos; while at the same time some of the prospective reductions of official salaries may have taken place contemplated by Ordinance No. 3. of 1856, which when in full operation will effect a saving to the colony of 596*l.* 2*s.* 1*d.* per annum. Meanwhile, as I have already adverted to in the fourth paragraph of this report, I have in my Despatch (Financial), No. 28. of 24th April 1858, transmitting the estimates for 1859, recommended, with the advice of the Executive Council, that an amount (500*l.*) in aid of the colonial revenue be contributed annually for a term of from three to five years from Her Majesty's Crown Funds of the colony. It is true that the Crown Funds contribute indirectly in various ways towards the maintenance of this government, as I have already had occasion to mention, and that in thus diverting them still further from their more legitimate application those public works of utility and necessity before referred to are thereby impeded, but when it is considered that, notwithstanding the great reduction of the old Bahama tariff, the inhabitants of this colony are, in consequence of their limited number, even now, compared with other small

West India colonies, somewhat heavily taxed, and considering, further, the great opposition which such a measure as that of raising the tariff would be likely to call forth from the representative members of council, your excellency will probably coincide with me in the opinion, that it is desirable to avoid as long as possible, under the circumstances, the difficult task of retracing steps too hastily taken in the first instance, more particularly when there are well-grounded hopes that by deferring the attempt the necessity for it may possibly be obviated altogether.

TABLE showing the REVENUE raised and EXPENDITURE defrayed by Authority of the Legislative Council of the TURKS and CAICOS ISLANDS, from 1849 to 1857, both years inclusive, together with the Amounts paid on account of the public debt due to the Bahama Government.

YEAR.	Revenue.	EXPENDITURE.		
		Salaries, &c.	On account of Public Debt.	Total Expenditure.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1849	8,441 3 2	4,791 19 2	2,410 11 0	7,202 10 2
1850	5,999 8 3	4,538 11 2½	2,281 7 11	6,819 19 1½
1851	5,925 18 2½	5,317 4 3	778 4 5½	6,095 8 8½
1852	6,712 13 10½	5,258 6 4¼	898 3 1	6,156 9 5¼
1853	5,897 13 9½	5,520 11 2½	954 12 6	6,475 3 8¼
1854	6,802 19 4	5,404 16 10¼	91 18 4	5,496 15 2¼
1855	5,874 16 9	6,209 6 9¾	91 18 4	6,301 5 1¾
1856	5,806 7 6	6,032 17 2	91 18 4	6,124 15 6
1857	5,952 11 0	5,938 6 9	91 18 4	6,030 5 1

23. By the foregoing table it will be seen, first, that the revenue of 1857, though exceeding that of 1856, was under an average one; second, that the expenditure arising from the civil list provided for by ordinances of the Legislative Council has much increased since the first establishment of this government in 1849; and, third, that, athough there was still a balance of 710*l.* 18*s.* 8*d.* at the close of 1857, the expenditure has exceeded the receipts during the last three years.

TABLE showing the DECLARED VALUE of IMPORTS and the VALUE of EXPORTS from 1849 to 1857.

YEAR.	Declared Value of Imports.	Value of Imports re-exported.	Actual Value of Salt exported.	Total Value of Exports.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1849	24,854 13 0	5,148 14 7	34,245 2 11	39,393 17 6
1850	27,989 9 7	4,174 2 11	26,757 18 7	30,932 1 6
1851	25,124 11 6	2,353 6 7	17,245 10 0	19,598 16 7
1852	29,467 14 2	2,790 17 3	22,035 4 1	24,826 1 4
1853	32,478 15 10	6,426 12 7	24,132 19 0	30,559 11 7
1854	34,263 7 8	3,442 3 7	51,375 16 3	54,817 19 10
1855	39,698 15 8	5,317 16 11	22,964 10 8	28,282 7 7
1856	33,523 7 6	4,174 2 7	22,890 0 6	27,064 3 1
1857	33,418 2 10	3,845 13 9	25,440 9 7	29,286 3 4
	280,818 17 9	37,673 10 9	247,087 11 7	284,761 2 4

24. The above table shows the total declared value of imports during the nine years that this government has been in existence to have amounted to 280,818*l.* 17*s.* 9*d.* of which Great Britain furnished - - - - £33,973 15 1
British colonies - - - - - 59,343 10 10
United States - - - - - 134,155 18 8
Other countries - - - - 53,345 13 2

£280,818 17 9

deducting from which the imports re-exported leaves 243,145*l.* 7*s.*, as the declared value of imports consumed during the above period within the colony.

25. The deficiency of imports in 1857, as compared with the previous year, has been considerable, although, in looking at the declared value, this is not so apparent as it has

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actually proved, by a diminution in import duties of 429*l.* 0*s.* 2*d.* in comparison with 1856. This deficiency is to be accounted for by the want of that permanent employment of labour in 1855-6 which was enjoyed by the working class in 1857, together with the high price of provisions, flour having been sold as high as 16*$.* or 3*l.* 15*s.* a barrel, Indian corn at 2*$.* or 8*s.* 4*d.* a bushel, and other articles of food at the same exorbitant rate, during a large portion of 1857. The increased importations in the first quarter of 1858 already show the effect of the constant employment of labourers in 1857, as well as that of the great fall in the price of provisions, flour being now to be purchased at 7*$.* or 1*l.* 9*s.* 2*d.* per barrel, and other articles of food in proportion.

26. The above table also shows the total value of exports from these islands during the last nine years to have amounted to 284,761*l.*, 2*s.* 4*d.* of which the sum of 247,087*l.* 11*s.* 7*d.* has been received by the salt pond proprietors, who during the same period have paid rents to the amount of 30,224*l.* 4*s.* 10*d.*, leaving to the Crown lessees a return arising from Her Majesty's salt ponds farmed out to them of 216,863*l.*, 6*s.* 9*d.*, or upwards of 24,000*l.* per annum in advance of their annual rents.

27. The amount received by the salt pond proprietors from the sale of salt has been obtained, in the proportions herein-after mentioned, from the following countries to which it has been exported, viz.:—

From British colonies - - -	£19,975	8	5
From the United States - - -	222,869	4	6
From other countries - - -	4,242	18	8
	£247,087	11	7

28. The export duty on salt of one farthing per bushel, and the light dues (3*d.* per ton), have been the means, owing to the large salt crop, and the consequent increase of shipping, in 1857, over 1856, of saving 1857 from being a bad revenual year, which from the deficiency of imports it must otherwise have proved.

29. The salt season of 1857 has been the most productive on record. Up to the close of the year 1,269,304 bushels of salt had been exported, while from 3 to 400,000 bushels remained in the colony, of which, up to the close of the first quarter of 1858, there have been exported 267,968 bushels.

30. The price of salt here, however, during 1857, has never ruled so low (save in 1852) since the first formation of this government, having only averaged 9½ cents (or 4¾*d.* sterling) per bushel. In 1855 the price averaged 27½ cents (or 1*s.* 1¾*d.*) per bushel, and taking the price from 1849 to 1857, both years inclusive, it has averaged during that period 15½ cents (or 7¾*d.* sterling) per bushel.

31. It is difficult to state with accuracy the cost of raking and shipping a bushel of salt, some of the salt pond proprietors placing it at 4 cents and others at 6 cents. Taking the medium, 5 cents (or 2½*d.* sterling), that amount may possibly approximate to the truth. To this must be added the proportionate amount of rent paid by each proprietor, to ascertain which there can be no general rule, from the plan adopted originally in leasing the ponds, by which some of the best were leased much too low and some of the worst rather too high in proportion. One cent (or one halfpenny sterling) per bushel will, however, cover all rentcharges in any case, though in some it may be less, which, with the farthing export duty, would give an outlay of 6½ cents (or 3¼*d.* sterling) before the salt raker can count his profit. At the average price obtained in 1857 (9½ cents or 4¾*d.* sterling) it is clear, therefore, that the salt rakers' profits must have been small, notwithstanding the large quantity raked.

32. Since making the above calculation, I have received the following statement from Mr. Horatio Stubbs, one of the proprietors of Hawes' Pond, a salina on this cay only brought of late years into cultivation. "The salt shipped from Hawes' Pond in 1857 "cost on board five cents (2½*d.* sterling) per bushel, including rental and all other "charges, and ten per cent. on cost of carts and mules for wear and tear. From inquiry, "I believe it to be about the cheapest, with small exception, if any. Six cents (3*d.* sterling) "I presume would be nearer the average."

33. This calculation, coming from a salt raker, one of the most intelligent in the colony, and which shows that I have rather overstated the cost and charge of a bushel of salt on board, is a very important one, if regarded with a view to fixing future rentals of cultivated salt ponds within these islands.

34. The fluctuating crops and prices of salt are disadvantageous to the labouring population, a short crop at high prices being better for the proprietor, while a large crop, although at low prices, benefits the labourer and the revenue. The high price of salt in 1855, which caused unusually large quantities of Mediterranean salt to be imported into

the United States, has been one means of the present downfall in price; whereas if salt were procurable here the whole year round at about 12½ cents (or 6¼ sterling) per bushel, a most remuneratory price, these importations would not be so great. This may gradually become the case as the present waste salinas in the East and West Caicos are brought more extensively into cultivation.

TABLES showing the TONNAGE INWARDS and OUTWARDS from 1849 to 1857.

YEAR.	Tonnage inwards.	Tonnage outwards.
1849	41,712	41,712
1850	41 269	41,279
1851	31,066	30,846
1852	40,106	38,930
1853	33,552	31,594
1854	39,254	36,676
1855	20,814	19,834
1856	29,086	28,940
1857	45,822	44,747

35. Of the above tonnage, I am only enabled to give the nationality of the shipping composing it for the last three years, which is as follows:—

YEAR.	British.	United States.	Other Places.	TOTAL.
ENTERED.				
1855	10,202	10,283	329	20,814
1856	12,010	16,871	205	29,086
1857	16,234	29,456	132	45,822
CLEARED.				
1855	9,734	9,695	405	19,834
1856	12,679	15,999	262	28,940
1857	19,424	25,118	205	44,747

Revenue from the Salt Pond Rents and Sale of Crown Lands composing Her Majesty's Crown Funds.

36. The salt pond rents and such other receipts as appertain to the Crown are collected and disbursed by an officer (the Crown commissioner) specially appointed by Her Majesty's Government for that purpose, and who also acts as Crown surveyor and superintendent of all public works, whether connected with the salt pond or otherwise.

37. The total fixed expenditure from the Crown Funds in 1857 amounted to 1,661*l.* 7*s.* 10¾*d.* consisting of salaries and allowances - £1,025 9 11
Parochial expenses - - 370 17 11¾
Aid to government schools - - - 150 0 0
Hired buildings - - - 115 0 0
£1,661 7 10¾

38. The principal salaries and allowances defrayed from the Crown Funds are those of the Crown commissioner, and his assistant, the stipendiary justice and assistant stipendiary justice at the Caicos, together with some small allowances which cease in 1858, the total amount, however, remaining about the same, owing to the recent appointment of an auditor of public accounts.

39. The parochial expenses 370*l.* 17*s.* 11¾*d* include., the maintenance of the poor's house, the cost of which in 1857 amounted to 356*l.* 0*s.* 11¼*d.*; the balance of parochial expenses, 14*l.* 17*s.* 0½*d.*, being for matters connected with the vestry.

40. The amount paid in aid of government schools in 1857 (150*l.*) has been now increased to 200*l.*, giving a total expenditure from the Crown Funds and colonial revenue towards public education of 650*l.* per annum.

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41. The amount placed in the Blue Book for rents of public buildings defrayed from the Crown Funds (115*l.*) consists of rent of barracks - £85 0 0
Ditto of Crown commissioner's office - - 20 0 0
Four months' rental of a government house in 1857 - - - - - - 10 0 0

£115 0 0

The rent of the poor's house and hospital, (45*l.*) also defrayed from the Crown Funds, is included in the parochial expenses, and will cease this month.

42. In consequence of the large annual amounts expended on the salt ponds, as well as in the fixed expenditure above mentioned, there has hitherto been little to show in the shape of buildings, with the exception of the lighthouse, towards the erection of which one moiety of the expense was contributed from the Crown Funds of the colony, the other being defrayed from Her Majesty's Treasury.

43. Public buildings of various descriptions have long been contemplated, but owing to the expensive scale on which it has hitherto been proposed to erect them but little has yet been accomplished.

44. Since my arrival in 1854, however, there have been the following public works carried out, independent of the numerous ones connected with the salt ponds, viz. :—

First. The repair of Mathew Tank, one of the most useful and necessary works that could possibly be undertaken in a colony where the scarcity of water is painfully apparent among the poorer class. This tank, originally commenced previous to the separation from the Bahamas, had fallen into a state of complete disrepair, until it was renewed in 1854, and rendered capable of containing upwards of 97,000 gallons of rain water, which, coming as it does from an extensive rocky "catch," is of the purest and best description. The total cost of its construction, inclusive of repairs, has amounted to nearly 1,000*l.* The pamphlet lately forwarded by your excellency on the production of fresh water from sea water by Dr. Normandy, and which has been already published here for general information, may possibly lead to a new era, as regards the supply of fresh water in a colony where there is none fit for human use save what falls from the clouds.

Second. The erection of a comfortable government house at Waterloo, together with the purchase of that estate, formerly belonging to Mr. Misich, senior member of council, but now the property of the colony.

Third. The excavation from the solid rock of a powder magazine, containing at present 100,000 lbs. of gunpowder and 43 kegs of ball cartridge. It is proposed to make this magazine a depôt for all gunpowder imported into the colony, whether private or public property.

Fourth. The establishment of a poor's house at a short distance from the town of Grand Turk, which is now completed, and where the paupers of the colony will be removed during the present month.

45. In 1856 it was found to be absolutely necessary to provide a magazine for the safe storage of gunpowder, and a half-finished building, about one mile to the north of the town of Grand Turk, was purchased for the purpose, by the advice of the Executive Council.

46. In the course of its construction for that purpose, it was found that it could be more beneficially applied to the purposes of a poor's house and hospital, which alteration, sanctioned also by the council, was adopted, and it now forms one of the best of the public buildings in the colony, besides causing a saving in rent of 45*l.* per annum.

47. In my speech at the opening of the present legislative session I stated to the council, on the subject of public works, as follows: "There is but little at present to "communicate on the subject of public works, but as I have frequently adverted to the "expensive mode of hiring private houses for government purposes, I may mention, "that should my proposition be carried into effect for the purchase of the present "building used for public offices, which I have reason to believe has already received "the sanction of Her Majesty's Government, and if so will be defrayed from the Crown "Funds of the colony, the rents of Government buildings will shortly stand at 166*l.* 15*s.* "in place of 452*l.* 11*s.* 8*d.*, as they stood in January 1855, thus effecting since then "a saving to the colony of 285*l.* 16*s.* 8*d.* per annum."

Separate, No. 17. of 21st Sept. 1857. Mr. Inglis to Governor Darling.

48. Although no direct sanction has been received to my proposition, contained in the despatch quoted in the margin, for the purchase of the building above mentioned, I made the statement to the council on the ground that the Crown Fund estimates for 1858 had been sanctioned, wherein provision is made for a payment on account towards the purchase in question. I therefore considered that no objection would be made on the

part of Her Majesty's Government, although I have deferred concluding the arrangement until the proposition is formally approved. TURKS ISLANDS.

49. I have omitted to enumerate, among other public works, that during 1857 extensive repairs have been made to the chapel of ease at Salt Cay, by which thirty-six additional seats have been added to the previous accommodation, the necessity for which had been pointed out by the resident minister there.

Ecclesiastical.

50. In the return of ecclesiastical establishments supported by this colony, it will be seen that the parish of St. George, comprising the Caicos Islands, has not the benefit of any minister, resident or otherwise, of the established church; that 40*l.* per annum had been assigned for two lay readers (20*l.* to each), but that no one had yet been appointed which may be accounted for by the smallness of the sum provided.

51. There is no part of this colony so much in want of spiritual instruction as the Caicos settlements, the population of which are fast verging into a state of semi-barbarism, a fact which has been lately brought to my notice by Mr. St. George Tucker, the assistant stipendiary justice residing at Cockburn Harbour, East Caicos, who describes the incestuous immorality practised throughout these settlements, to be hardly credible in a so-called Christian community. Cockburn Harbour forms, I believe, an exception to this lamentable state of affairs.

52. The contribution from the revenue of this colony towards the ecclesiastical establishment of the church of England maintained here already amounting to 673*l.* 18*s.* 4*d.* per annum (exclusive of grants to the dissenters), but little more can well be expected from it, but were the Church Missionary Aid Society made acquainted with the field which is open to them at the Caicos they would probably be induced to render this colony such assistance as might be the means of rescuing the Caicos from their present state of spiritual destitution.

53. In the event of such a proposition being entertained, I would recommend the appointment of a church missionary to the Caicos Islands, who might be placed at Cockburn Harbour as his head quarters, from whence he would be in a position to make periodical visits to the other settlements.

Legislation.

54. Nine ordinances were passed during the legislative session of 1857, the principal one of importance to this community being Ordinance No. 4. of 1857, "to restrict the "contributions to the widows' and orphans' fund to the present public officers of the "colony," on which subject, and its operation, I made a full report in my speech at the commencement of the present session, transmitted in my Despatch to your Excellency (Legislative), No. 30. of 26th April 1858.

Education.

55. The returns in connexion with public education show a total of 428 scholars at the government schools during the year 1857. On this subject I transmit a report* from the head master at Grand Turk, who is also inspector of government schools generally, throughout the colony. * Not received.

56. Mr. Ockenden states, in his report, dated Grand Turk, 12th June 1858, that the year 1856 shows a falling-off of 21 scholars, in comparison with 1856, attributable to the great demand for labour during nearly the whole of the former year, and which he considers, in as far as the more advanced scholars are concerned, a circumstance not to be regretted, inasmuch as they have been contributing to their own support and that of their parents. When it is remembered that most of the scholars in our public schools are destined to become salt-pond labourers, Mr. Ockendon's view will probably be concurred in; while the fact that this small decrease is attributed to the true cause may be gathered from the statement at the close of the fifth paragraph of his report, viz., that the numbers and attendance at the schools had steadily increased since the busy season last year.

57. In the fourth paragraph of his report Mr. Ockenden refers to the great want of suitable schoolhouses; a subject of regret to myself, which at present I see no means of remedying.

58. Mr. Ockenden, in his sixth paragraph, adverts to my personal observation at the recent public examinations of the several schools here and at Salt Cay, and the favourable allusion to the head school at this cay made in my speech at the opening of the present

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session of the Legislative Council, which I take the liberty to quote as follows:—"On the "subject of public education I laid before you last year some interesting statistics. I "now have the pleasure to state that the proposed establishment of a public school at "the rising settlement of Cockburn Harbour, East Caicos, has received the sanction of "Her Majesty's Government, and I hope in the next educational returns to show that it is "likely to be not among the least of our colonial schools. The late public examinations "here must have been gratifying to all who witnessed them; and I am of opinion, in "which I am confident the honourable members who witnessed it will coincide, that the "examination of the first and second classes of the head school at Grand Turk would, "in the intelligence displayed by the scholars, have compared favourably with any similar "school in the West Indies, and that the school in question is fortunate in possessing as "its head master Mr. Ockenden, inspector of government schools, ably assisted as he is "at present by a gentleman whose educational talents are conspicuous. I cannot take "a better or more public opportunity than the present of calling the attention of parents "to the grave responsibility which those incur who neglect to take advantage of the price-"less boon of a good education so freely proffered to them by this government, and "would earnestly point out to them that if they wish their children to bless their memory "they will not fail to accept it for them while there is yet time."

59. With regard to the government school at Lorimers, Caicos, where Mr. Ockenden mentions that in July last year he found 123 scholars of both sexes on the register, on whose attainments he could not report favourably, I have reason to believe that the next report will show an improvement both in the numbers and proficiency of the scholars.

60. The school at Kew, Caicos, which Mr. Ockenden reports on in paragraphs eight and nine, with regard to the master of which I lately made some remarks in my Despatch (Separate), No. 32. of the 18th May 1858, I have only to state, in reference to it, that the board of education have never considered that they exercised any supervision whatever over it, or were in any way answerable for its shortcomings, and that the amount of 10*l.* per annum (now withdrawn) was given purely as a gratuity to encourage education at a place where no government school existed.

61. Mr. Ockenden reports favourably, in his tenth paragraph, on the new government school lately established at Cockburn Harbour, East Caicos, where the numbers of scholars have already increased to 47, with an average daily attendance of 34.

62. On the subject of fees (paragraph eleven), Mr. Ockenden is aware of my opinion, in which I am supported by the members of the board of education, that the small fee of 1½*d.* sterling per week should be rigidly enforced. The due collection of these fees is of importance to the maintenance of these schools. The poorest cannot consider them high (the fees having been reduced from sixpence to the present amount), while the enforcement of their payment causes education to be more appreciated. Mr. Ockenden confirms the necessity for this compulsory payment, when he states that the total grant, now amounting to 650*l.* per annum, placed at the disposition of the board of education, does not suffice to meet the present expenses incurred in the cause of public education within this colony. It will be seen by the returns that the fees collected during 1857 amounted to 50*l.* 2*s.* 4½*d.*, an important item, increasing the annual receipts to 700*l.*, which, although a large sum to expend in proportion to the revenue of the colony, is by no means as large as could be desired.

I have, &c.
W. R. INGLIS, President.

Enclosure 2 in No. 10.

Enclosure 2. in No. 10.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor DARLING to President W. R. INGLIS.

(No. 69.)

SIR, King's House, Jamaica, July 9, 1858.

I HAVE perused with gratification your interesting report accompanying the Blue Book of the presidency for the year 1857.

2. I shall not fail to request the attention of Her Majesty's Government to your suggestion that the Church Missionary Aid Society might be induced to render assistance in the extension of spiritual care to the inhabitants.

3. With reference to the view which you take of the difficulty of meeting my instruction, that whatever portion of the Crown Funds is appropriated to the general service of the colony should be considered as "incidental revenue," and entered accord-

ingly in the return of "net revenue and expenditure," while charges which may be met by such contribution from the Crown Funds should be included in the expenditure side of that return, I beg to acquaint you that the term "incidental revenue" was used in error: and my intention must have been to direct that the contribution in question should be entered as "receipt in aid" of the general revenue.

4. The only expenditure properly chargeable against the Crown Funds as a local or special revenue is, I conceive, that incident to the care and improvement of the property from which those funds arise, and to the collection of the funds themselves.

5. By the course pursued in compiling the "Blue Book" the net amount of the Crown Funds as thus obtained is not shown, nor does the expenditure for the year incurred under the several heads in the service of the colony appear in its proper place.

6. I have to request that you will furnish me with a statement of the expenditure chargeable against the Crown Funds upon the principle just stated.

7. I may observe that in the cases of colonies which receive assistance from the Imperial Treasury, the amount of the contribution is recorded as a receipt in aid. I must also remark, that the fact that the colonial revenue is collected and disbursed by the receiver-general, and the Crown Funds by another officer, does not prevent the preparation of a consolidated return of the public revenue and expenditure, which is the document required by the Blue Book, and which perhaps the auditor would be the proper officer to prepare, from statements to be furnished by the two receiving and disbursing officers, subject to that responsibility for its accuracy on the part of the colonial secretary which the regulations of the service impose upon that functionary.

I have, &c.

His Honour W. R. Inglis, President.

(Signed) C. H. DARLING.

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No. 11.

COPY of DESPATCH from Governor KEATE to the Right Hon. Sir E. B. LYTTON, Bart.

(No. 131.) Trinidad, September 26, 1858.

(Received, November 1, 1858.)

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you the Blue Book for Trinidad for 1857, and to report upon the condition and prospects of the Colony. In so doing, I propose to compare the period under review with the two preceeding years, having, from my recent arrival in the Colony, been unable, when forwarding the Blue Book for 1856, to accompany it with any Report.

2. The establishments of the Island are principally supported by the receipts from customs duties levied on imports, with their attendant tonnage, wharfage, and warehouse dues. The costs of its public works also are mainly defrayed from these sources. There are others which contribute, but they are comparatively unimportant. They consist of the proceeds of sales of Crown lands, of licences for the sale of spirits, of legacy duty, fees of office, fees and fines of court, reimbursement of advances, with interest, and other smaller items. To these have to be added an excise duty on rum manufactured and consumed within the Colony, and the duty payable on every contract of labour entered into with immigrants introduced at the public expense, to defray which they are specially applicable.

3. The whole revenue from all these sources combined amounted in 1855 to 103,170*l.*; in 1856, inclusive of an exceptional tax on exports, to 127,181*l.*; in 1857, without such export tax, to 136,674*l.* The expenditure during the same three years was as follows:

	£
In 1855 - - - -	953,331
In 1856 - - - -	127,009
In 1857 - - - -	197,636

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The balance to the credit of the Colony stood at the close of 1855 at 23,971*l.*, at that of 1856 at 22,936*l.*, and at that of 1857 at 48,651*l.*, out of which there was a current liability on deposit account averaging 17,488*l.*

4. The local expenditure of the Island is met by local taxation; in the two towns of Port of Spain and San Fernando by borough rates on houses and lands within the circuits of the towns, under the control of elected municipal bodies; in the rural districts by ward rates; also on houses and lands, under the management of wardens appointed by the Executive, and boards of auditors elected by the ratepayers. The funds of the borough councils are augmented by market and other fees, and those of the wards by fees on licences for the retail of spirits. They provide for the maintenance of streets, roads, and bridges, for the primary education of the people, for the registration of births and deaths, for the relief and medical care of the poor, for a portion of the general police expenditure, for the salaries of the officers employed in carrying out these objects, and for other local purposes. In Port of Spain there is also a water rate, which is levied by the general Government under the provisions of a special Ordinance, and applied to the repayment of the original outlay upon the construction of the waterworks, and to their extension and repair.

5. The receipts of the borough council of Port of Spain reached—

	£
In 1855 - - -	6,261
„ 1856 - - -	6,805
„ 1857 - - -	6,981

Its expenditure during the same period was—

	£
In 1855 - - -	8,230
„ 1856 - - -	7,614
„ 1857 - - -	7,047

leaving an adverse balance in the three years of 2,844*l.*

The receipts of the borough council of San Fernando were—

	£
In 1855 - - -	2,351
„ 1856 - - -	2,062
„ 1857 - - -	2,192

Its outlay was—

	£
In 1855 - - -	2,651
„ 1856 - - -	2,104
„ 1857 - - -	2,151

leaving an excess of expenditure in the three years of 301*l.*

The revenue and expenditure of the wards during the same period were as follows:—

Revenue:

	£
In 1855 - - -	21,236
„ 1856 - - -	28,739
„ 1857 - - -	24,189

Expenditure:

	£
In 1855 - - -	20,417
„ 1856 - - -	24,786
„ 1857 - - -	24,927

showing a balance in favour of revenue in the three years of 4,034*l.*

The water-rate in Port of Spain produced—

	£
In 1855 - - -	1,710
„ 1856 - - -	1,816
„ 1857 - - -	1,898

The aggregate of receipts from all sources, and applicable to all purposes of general and local government, amounted, therefore—

	£
In 1855 to	134,728
„ 1856 to	166,603
„ 1857 to	171,934

or, taking the average of the three years, to 157,755*l.* Deducting from this amount a sum of 9,107*l.* as the aggregate of reimbursements of advances during the same space of time, a total of 148,548*l.* is left as the produce of what may be fairly called taxation, either of a direct or indirect nature.

6. The population of Trinidad was returned by the last Census, taken in July 1851, at 68,600. Its increase since that time by births, as deducible from the records in the Registrar General's Office, by immigration from China, India, and the Cape de Verde Islands, as shown in the returns of the Agent General of Immigrants, and by the influx of strangers from the neighbouring colonies, so far as can be judged from the entries in the books of the Harbour Master, may be safely said to have raised it to 80,000. By dividing the aggregate of revenue arrived at in the last paragraph by the present estimated amount of population, a result is given showing an average taxation on the inhabitants of Trinidad of 1*l.* 15*s.* 2*d.* per head per annum.

7. Continuing to compare the period to which the Blue Book refers with the two preceding years, I proceed to point out the progressive increase that has taken place in the value of the imports and exports of the Colony. The former were returned—

		£
In 1855	at	554,534
„ 1856	at	666,474
„ 1857	at	800,820

The latter—

		£
In 1855	at	387,999
„ 1856	at	546,296
„ 1857	at	1,013,414

the extraordinary rise in the latter year being ascribable to improved prices in a far greater degree than to augmented exportation.

8. That in an island of more than 2,012 square miles of surface the industry of a population so small in comparison with its extent and so fluctuating in some of its elements should suffice for the production of exportable commodities valued at so high a figure is attributable in great measure to the steadiness with which certain principles have been adhered to in its legislation, and it is matter of congratulation that its institutions are such as to admit of this stability. To concentrate population round certain centres of civilization, and to check, so far as moral means of compulsion can do so, its spread into distant and unsettled districts, have been the objects aimed at. This has been sought partly by regulations affecting the sale of Crown lands, partly by the subjection of all lands, whether cultivated or not, to ward rates, and thus connecting inseparably the responsibilities of property with its enjoyment, and partly by territorial and administrative arrangements having for their object the care, instruction, and well-being generally of the people, and their inter-communication with each other.

9. This concentration, however, is as a matter of course comparative, and not absolute. Many causes, irrespective of the characteristic tendency of the peasantry to retirement and isolation, conduce to extend the circle which these measures are designed to limit. The very cultivation of cocoa, indeed, holding, as it does, so important a place among the staples of the island, may be said to operate in this direction, by peopling such of the secluded valleys among the mountains as are not too inaccessible or too distant from the available markets for their produce; and by the abandonment of estates cultivated in canes during slavery in the south-eastern portion of the island, and their consequent sale in small lots, a scattered population has been kept up along that remote coast. It is, however, a district peculiarly suited to the growth of the cocoa-nut palm, the planting of which is now being greatly extended, so that even this unpromising industrial element is gradually being utilized. Two well intended measures of Government at an earlier period in the history of the Colony have, however, hitherto had the effect of encouraging rather than of counteracting the spread of population towards uncultivated districts. I allude to the location of disbanded military pensioners at Manzanilla, further south, along the same coast, and the settlement in the Naparimas of the American negroes compromised in the last war with the United States. In each case grants of land were allotted to the settlers larger than they could themselves work, and far beyond the limits to which the cultivation of the staples had at that time extended. Settlers, therefore, have been attracted towards them, as squatters on their small holdings, while they, and especially the Americans, have taken the place of the Indian wandering tribes, now almost

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extinct in the island, as hunters of the game with which the vast forests in the centre of it abound. Even among them, however, I can discern some signs of improvements. The pensioners are beginning to feel the irksomeness of their isolation, and to express a wish for the establishment of schools for their children, and for more easy communication with the capital; wants which I hope to be enabled to some extent to meet. Cane cultivation, moreover, is striding onwards, and gradually approaching and threatening in some places to envelop the American settlements. Their position, therefore, will gradually become less exceptional, and the habits of the settlers be influenced and moulded by contact with a civilization to which they have hitherto been comparatively strangers.

10. But it is to the continuous though expensive and by no means sufficient stream of immigration which has flowed into the island during the years under review that it is mainly indebted for the progress it has achieved. In addition to his usual Annual Report, a copy of which I transmitted in my Despatch, No. 19. of the 11th February last, the Agent General of Immigrants has taken the occasion of the close of a full period of five years' industrial residence to draw up some tabular statements, and to offer some remarks upon them, with a view to showing, upon more complete data than he had previously at his command, in what manner the inseparable interests of the workman and the employer have been promoted by this particular importation of foreign labour. I append a copy of his remarks and tables.* Perhaps in no sugar-growing colony, unless it is Mauritius, has the introduction of labour from abroad become so completely a part of the ordinary business of its local Government as in Trinidad. It is an island so favoured by nature in regard to its situation, its soil and its climate, that but one element of wealth remains to be developed in it by artificial means, namely, the possession of a population proportionate to its cultivable extent. So attractive a field of employment does it offer that it profits by a considerable voluntary immigration from the neighbouring colonies, nor are the exertions of individuals wanting to obtain reinforcements from more distant places which from time to time may be open to them; but the supply from the first of these sources is very uncertain, and that from the latter very partial, comparatively few proprietors being in a condition to avail themselves of it, even by combinations among themselves. Government agency, therefore, is looked to as the medium by which the artificial increase of the population can best be fostered; and indeed to restrict by legislative enactments and administrative arrangements the native races within an area compatible with the improvement of their social condition, and gradually, though more quickly than natural means could suffice to effect, to fill up that area, and then extend its limits, would seem to be in fact but different modes of carrying out the same line of policy.

11. A collateral result of this policy has been, to give, at a comparatively early period in the history of the colony, a parochial rather than a missionary character to its clerical organization. The island is an archdeaconry in the diocese of Barbados, and is divided for ecclesiastical purposes, in connection with the national church, into sixteen parishes, forming six rectories and nine island curacies, with assistant curacies attached to each rectory. Of these six rectories, five Island curacies and three assistant curacies are provided with clergy and stipends. The archbishop of a large Roman Catholic diocese, including several West Indian islands, British and foreign, resides in Trinidad, and enjoys a salary from its treasury. He is assisted in this part of his diocese by a vicar-general. It is divided into twenty cures and seven assistant curacies, all of which are supplied with clergy and stipends. In proportion as the inhabited area widens a call necessarily arises for an increase in the number of the clergy of both denominations. The more scattered population, especially in the cocoa-growing districts, being mainly of foreign descent, the Roman Catholic establishment has spread over a more extended range than that of the Church of England, but at this moment there is great need of a reinforcement to the ranks of the latter.

12. However unavoidable, there can be no doubt that the existence of a double ecclesiastical establishment must tend rather to keep up distinctions, other than those of a purely religious character, which it is highly desirable to eradicate, distinctions that is of race, language, and manners. The educational system of the Colony is calculated to assist in counteracting this tendency. It is no part of the business of the civil government to inculcate unity of religious belief, but it is decidedly incumbent upon it to endeavour to prevent the absence of such unity producing social discord. While then

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*Note.—This Report of the Agent General of Immigrants will be found printed in House of Commons Paper, No. 31, of Session 1859, page 354. (West India Immigration.)

the training of the young in all doctrinal points is left to be conducted exclusively and separately by the ministers of the communities to which they severally belong, ample time being set apart for this most essential object, their instruction in secular subjects is carried on in common in primary schools open to all, and through the medium of the English language only. Masters are provided for these schools; which number at present, inclusively of those maintained by the borough council of Port of Spain and San Fernando, 28, with an average attendance of 1,227 pupils, by a normal training school established in the former town, and which now has on its books the names of 126 pupils, of whom 13 are in the training department. There has also existed in the same town since 1856 an institution admirably organized and conducted for the education of females and the training of female teachers; 130 names are now upon its books, of which 5 are those of pupil teachers. It is already prepared to provide mistresses for infant schools; the establishment and maintenance of such, in addition to primary schools in the two towns, is intrusted by Ordinance to their borough councils; but I regret to say that it is only quite lately that either of these two bodies has taken any steps for discharging this portion of its duties. I am now given to understand that there is every likelihood of one such school being opened in Port of Spain in a short time. I can conceive no measure which would be more conducive to the gradual obliteration of the stigma now resting upon these two towns of possessing a larger proportion of idlers to their whole population than probably any two others in the world, or which would redound more to the credit, and exhibit more clearly the foresight of their municipal authorities, than a conscientious carrying out on their parts of the object the Legislature had in view when imposing this duty upon them. Fortunately other bodies have not been so remiss; and there exist in the towns and throughout the island, irrespective of Government schools, some 26 others, supported in various ways by voluntary contributions, the greater number of which are infant schools.

13. I was in great hopes of being able to announce in this Report the opening of the "Queen's Collegiate School" in Port of Spain, preparations for establishing which have long been made, for the purpose of providing on the spot for the children of parents in the upper ranks of society an education suited to them, and upon the same really catholic principle of combination instead of separation which characterizes the system adopted in regard to the general population. It has taken longer, however, than I anticipated to procure the services of a competent head master, before whose arrival no commencement can be made. I trust that the year will not elapse before the establishment is in full career.

14. Grave doubts are entertained in many quarters of the working of the Ordinance already referred to, "For the Regulation of Municipal Corporations in the Island," No. 10. of 1853, and certainly the cause of education has not been promoted under it to the extent and in the manner it was intended to be. Petitions upon the subject have been presented to the Council of Government, not indeed referring especially to this point, but aiming at a change in the system which may ensure its operating more beneficially in every respect. The clause of the Ordinance particularly attacked is that which gives salaries out of the borough funds to the mayors of the two corporations, and it is contended that the effect of this provision has been, on the one hand, to deter the persons best fitted by character and position for seats at the boards from becoming candidates for them, by its giving to pecuniary considerations a predominating influence on the results of elections, and on the other hand practically to throw upon the mayors the whole of the duties which ought to be discharged by the councils, upon the ground of their being paid for the work, while the other members of them are not. Municipal institutions in the unrestricted form given to them by the Ordinance are in fact on their trial, and any expedient is worth adopting which may seem likely to help them to a successful issue. It is certainly essential to this that they should be worked out by the best hands; but it is incontestible, whatever the cause may be, that up to the present time the modified form in which the municipal principle is embodied in the ward system of the Island has been found in its practical results to suit its circumstances better.

15. The boards of auditors in the country districts and the borough councils of the two towns are constituted by another Ordinance Boards of health for these respective localities, and the duty of framing rules for their guidance is devolved upon a Central General Board. The first fruits of this organization has been the devising of a scheme for the underground drainage of Port of Spain, which will very soon be in course of execution. When finished, and when the sanitary regulations are in force, which cannot be brought into operation till it is so, the efforts of its municipal authorities to keep the

TRINIDAD. town in a state of cleanliness and salubrity will be infinitely facilitated. Other works having sanitary objects in view have been undertaken by the general Government. A public washing-house has been erected, and is in full work, and the rivers from which the town is supplied with water are consequently uncontaminated by filth, and a public bath-house is very nearly completed. There is every reason to think that in a short time Port of Spain will be, to say the least, as healthy a town as any in the West Indies.

16. The paucity of labour, and especially of skilled labour, which is available for public works, has retarded the opening of two establishments which have been in progress of construction during the year under review. It is probable, however, that before this Report leaves the Island they will both have been put to their destined use. I mean the new Colonial Hospital and the Lunatic Asylum. There are at present sixty-seven patients under treatment in the hired building still used as a general hospital, and forty in the portion of the Royal Gaol set apart for lunatics. It is fortunate that a decrease in the aggregate number of persons confined in the gaol, consequent upon the removal of a portion of them to the convict depôt at the Irois Forest, and the opening of a district prison at San Fernando, as well as to the general diminution of crime, which there is no doubt the establishment of the depôt has contributed to bring about, has rendered the inconvenience long felt of keeping the lunatics in the same building with the debtors and other prisoners less intolerable than it otherwise would have been. I append the Enclosure. Annual Report of the Keeper of the Royal Gaol. The opening of the two establishments referred to will, I hope, be followed up at no long distance by that of the new Colonial Hospital at San Fernando, in the erection of which great progress has been made during the present year, and which I am the more desirous of completing, as the dilapidated state of the existing hospital renders it scarcely safe for the reception of patients.

17. Two other important works undertaken by the Government were finished before the close of last year. The laying down of a main sewer to carry off to the sea the refuse of the new hospital, the wash-house, and the Royal Gaol, and the substitution of an enlarged reservoir for the small one by which the waters of the St. Ann's River were previously made available for the supply of Port of Spain. The success of the former of these experiments gives every promise for that of the general drainage of the town; but such is the demand, and so great the consumption, not to say waste of it, that it begins to be apparent that ere long an additional main pipe from the reservoir at Maraval will be required.

18. The works remaining to be executed, in addition to the underground drainage of the town already referred to, are the re-erection of the Governor's residence at St. Ann's, for which plans and estimates have been prepared, and materials are being collected, and the advancement further into the sea of the line of wharves, which for a considerable time have been gradually becoming useless from the filling up of the sea approaches. This subject, in connexion with that of the extension of the jetty, appeared to me to present so many difficulties that I issued a commission of inquiry into it, and I expect shortly to be furnished with their report. A great desire has also been manifested that the Government should erect a patent slip for facilitating the repairs of vessels in the Gulf; and though this is perhaps rather a speculation which should be undertaken by private parties or a company, yet it is a project which may well be considered as part of the main question of the improvement of the harbour.

19. It has been customary for the Government, in addition to such public works as it takes into its own hands, to afford assistance in the shape either of advances or subsidies to the wards in their larger and more expensive operations. On this principle, advances are now being made for the construction of three bridges along the Eastern Road, and in 1856 a sum was appropriated in aid of the erection of a bridge over the Caroni River at a distance of about nine miles from its mouth, which has been finished since the beginning of the present year. I look upon this as a most important fact in respect to the road system, or rather systems, of the Island. I say systems, because the River Caroni and the Great Savannah through which it runs in its lower course have hitherto operated as an intervening barrier between the roads branching off from Port of Spain to the north of them and San Fernando to the south. The consequence has hitherto been, that, except in the very height of the dry season, intercourse between the north and south of the Island has been kept up solely by sea, by means of the steamer plying in the Gulf, or by sailing and row-boats. By the exertions of the wardens and the local road boards, constant improvements and extensions have been made in the existing roads on each side of this barrier. From the northern end of the new bridge there is now

uninterrupted communication with Port of Spain, and but little is required to be done to fill up gaps in that between the southern edge of the Savannah and San Fernando. It remains to construct a highway across the Savannah itself, of about nine miles, and a survey of this line is now being made by the Inspector of Roads. It is true that there is reason to believe that this connecting link will be provided in due time by the Trinidad Railway Company, with which in the course of last year the Colony entered into negotiations, on terms mutually advantageous; but several years must elapse before any of its projected lines can be completed, and it is not yet decided when or on which of them it will commence operations. In the meantime the districts immediately to the south of the Grand Savannah are languishing from their comparative inaccessibility, the conformation of the land putting them even out of the reach of the steam service; and administration of the law is rendered defective in them from the same cause. To them, therefore, above all others, a junction with the new Caroni Bridge would be a real boon, and I am in hopes that by the combined action of the central Government and of the local authorities means may be found for affording it to them.

20. Such a road, though highly necessary for ensuring prompt communication, would in no way or in a very slight degree affect the question of the transport of produce. The roads more especially kept up for this object run, not parallel to but at right angles to the line of coast, that is, to the many spots made use of as shipping places in the Gulf; and as cultivation has extended inland it has become more and more a matter of importance to maintain them in as efficient a state as the difficulty of obtaining proper material will admit of, or to provide substitutes for them more fitted for the purpose. The latter alternative is being adopted in more than one locality, under the provisions of Ordinance No. 4. of 1856. A line of tramway, eight miles in length, with several branches, is in course of formation, and in a state of considerable forwardness, in the southern division of the county of Victoria; another, of four miles in length, has been commenced in the district of Chaguanas in the county of Caroni; while the preliminary steps are being taken for laying down a third, of seven miles in length, in the northern division of the former county.

21. I have alluded to the difficulty of obtaining materials for road-making. This of itself is evidence of great and wide-spread richness of soil, and that the colony rejoices in a practically unlimited extent of lands of the utmost fertility. I had ocular demonstration when I made a tour of the whole Island in the early part of the year, and endeavoured to reach its centre by a route hitherto untried; but on this point the report of the gentlemen who have been employed on the geological survey of the Island will no doubt give ample information. It will be ready, I understand, to be forwarded to you before the end of the year.

22. I had the advantage of the company of these gentlemen at various places during my journey, and with them I inspected, among other objects of interest, the coal which they have discovered upon the face of the cliffs along a portion of the eastern coast. Their endeavours to trace its course inland have been much impeded by the dense forests which clothe the surface of the Island wherever it is uncleared, but I believe they have observed sufficient indications of it to be able to come to some general conclusions on the subject, if not, as I hope, however, may be the case, to fix upon a spot more within reach than the inhospitable coast on which it was first seen, where operations for extracting it might be likely to meet with success. It has been pronounced to be a tertiary coal of good quality; but the trial made of it on a small scale on board H. M. ship "Buzzard" has shown it to possess defects which render it more or less unsuited for purposes of navigation; for local use in sugar mills, and probably for railroad engines, it would be of great value, if easily procurable in sufficient quantities.

23. Though in the course of these observations I have taken a sanguine view of the prospects of the Colony, I am by no means blind to the possibility of circumstances occurring which may retard for a time its progress, and necessitate redoubled cautiousness in the management of its finances. Great advantage has been taken latterly of their flourishing condition to carry out public works long in contemplation, and urgently requiring to be undertaken; the expenditure under this head has therefore been large, and it is likely to be so for some time longer, if the state of the revenue should continue to justify it. The most pressing wants of the community in this respect have, however, now been met, or will shortly be so, and the liabilities of the Colony have been proportionably diminished. The works remaining to be executed are mostly such as may be carried out either at once or by degrees, and they have been planned accordingly; and

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for one at least of them, namely, the improvements of the harbour, a separate fund will in all probability be raised. The great pressure upon the resources of the Colony, and to bear which they must be husbanded and developed, will no doubt for many years to come be its expenditure for the introduction of labour from distant sources; but it is to the returns from this very outlay, large though it may be, that I look with confidence for effecting such development on the one hand, or for meeting on the other those temporary checks to prosperity which circumstances extraneous to the Colony are apt from time to time to produce.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. Sir E. B. Lytton, Bart., &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) ROB. W. KEATE.

Encl. in No. 11.

Enclosure in No. 11.

Extract of Report of the Keeper of the Royal Gaol, for the year 1857, laid before the Council of Government on 1st February 1858.

Royal Gaol, 11th January 1858.

The Convicts Depôts at Irois.

These establishments have greatly tended as a check to crime, from the fact that prisoners who have been sent thither, and undergone their sentence, have not been recommitted to gaol.

The labour performed there has not only been beneficial financially but politically; and were it even only the latter, still a great point is achieved, inasmuch as it has the effect of checking crime, and of enforcing that real hard labour which is intended by the sentence.

It is a source of gratification to me to be able to assert that the effects of these depôts is far greater than can be imagined. In the first place, the convicts are removed beyond the possibility of seeing or of hearing of their friends and relatives; their occupation is of a nature sufficient to cause reflection even in the mind of the most ignorant; they see and know practically what they have to undergo; and they, moreover, are cognizant that only by a radical change in their conduct, and by a due regard to obedience, they can for one moment entertain "hope."

Their labour tends also to go towards their keep; and it may fairly be asserted that nothing could have been devised having a greater tendency to eradicate evil propensities, and to curb violent and refractory dispositions, than the above-named establishments.

The behaviour of the convicts has been all that could be desired; and in stating this I can further observe, that punishments for disobedience or other offences have not exceeded two during the past twelve months, a feature which, considering the daily average of prisoners (thirty at each depôt), is of sufficient proof of what I have advanced. It is also a matter of import to state that the larger numbe of convicts located at these establishments are men whose sentences vary from two to four years.

As a means of conducting things in such manner as may be advantageous to the convict and to society at large, a strict moral discipline is carried out, as it is far better, in isolated establishments or penal settlements of this kind, to moralize a man, and convince him of his fault, and the fatal consequences that will attend if he persists in doing evil, than to have recourse to severe punishments. In doing so I have no hesitation in saying that I have succeeded with every advantage to the convict and to the country.

During the past year a total of 24,000 cubic feet of balatta, crapeau, locust, tapana, cedar, galba, and mora timber, and 160 cords of firewood, have been the result of the labour of the convicts.

BRITISH GUIANA.

No. 12.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Governor Wodehouse to the Right Hon. Sir E. B. Lytton, Bart.

(No. 138.) Government House, Georgetown, December 22, 1858.

(Received January 20, 1859.)

Sir,

I have the honour to forward the Blue Book for British Guiana for 1857. The revenue of the Colony for that year will be found to have exceeded that for 1856 to the amount of 36,041*l.* The principal changes in the taxation worthy of notice are the cessation of the produce export tax, and the imposition of the registration tax. The former had been imposed some years before; as a special provision for Immigration, and the payment of it fell upon the planters, as the producers of the main articles of export. In 1855 and 1856 arrangements were made by which the payment of a considerable proportion of the cost of Immigration was devolved upon the planters; and it was then admitted that the duty on produce exported, a tax objectionable in its nature, might with propriety be dispensed with.

The registration tax had had its origin in the riots which occurred in the Colony in the early part of 1856. The Legislature then undertook to pay compensation amounting to about 60,000*l.* to those whose property had been destroyed, and resolved that the outlay should be recovered by an annual tax upon all able-bodied people of two dollars for males and one dollar for females. The tax was levied in 1857, and again in 1858, but was abolished, with very little judgment or discretion, by a majority of the Combined Court, in their annual session for this years.

The expenditure for 1857 was 280,879*l.*, against 235,013*l.* for 1856. The increase is to be found under the heads of Annuities and Gratuities, Immigration, Militia, Revenue Establishments, Cholera, and Loans repaid.

The gratuities granted by the Combined Court were more numerous and of a higher class than common. The expenditure for Immigration was much increased by our having been obliged to liquidate various old claims outstanding against the Colony for transactions of past years.

The arrangements for calling out a part of the Colonial Militia came into operation in the latter part of 1856, and consequently but a small charge was incurred during that year. As was to be expected, many difficulties were encountered in the outset, but it may be hoped that most of them have been overcome, and that it will be found practicable to maintain the force in an efficient condition. It is divided into cavalry, artillery, rifle and line companies, and service in one of them is compulsory upon the inhabitants of Georgetown possessing certain pecuniary qualifications; but those liable are permitted to volunteer for the cavalry, artillery, or rifles.

The revenue establishments were increased in consequence of the imposition of the registration tax, and since its abolition they have been again reduced.

Under the head of Loans repaid is included the redemption of one series of the bonds issued in compensation for the riots.

Of the Ordinances passed during the year, two only seem to call for special notice here. One, No. 10, relative to the introduction of Portuguese immigrants; the other, No. 12, for the establishment of dispensaries. It had become evident, from the experience of past years, that the Portuguese immigrants from Madeira were, almost without exception, so industrious in their habits as to render it unnecessary to have recourse to indentures of service for the purpose of securing an adequate return for the cost of their introduction; while at the same time such large numbers of them had already been introduced as to remove all fear of the new comers falling into distress on their first arrival. It was therefore determined to appropriate a sum for the payment of the passages of a certain number, upon the express condition that they should not be brought under indentures, but left free to locate themselves at their own discretion. The full number for which provision was made have already arrived, and the Government continues paying, in the confidence that the Legislature will sanction the further outlay.

The dispensaries have been established experimentally. The want of medical relief, from which the inhabitants of the rural districts, not attached to estates, were suffering,

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had been frequently and urgently pressed upon the consideration of the Government; and when, by the imposition of the registration tax, the whole population of the Colony was subjected to a direct contribution to the revenue, it was felt that the measure might very properly be accompanied by an attempt to provide for one of the most urgent wants of the lower orders. And, notwithstanding the abolition of that tax, the Government has been able up to this time to prevent the discontinuance of the dispensaries. At present, however, we can only regard them as experimental, and I should be sorry to venture an opinion as to their ultimate success.

In conclusion, I have to express my regret, that for reasons, explained in previous Despatches the returns of Trade and Shipping have not been filled up; but I trust that in future Blue Books the deficiency will be supplied to a considerable extent.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. Sir E. B. Lytton, Bart., &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) P. E. WODEHOUSE.

BARBADOS.

BARBADOS.

No. 13.

No. 13.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor HINCKS to the Right Hon. Sir E. B. LYTTON, Baronet.

(No. 48.)

Windward Islands, Barbados, September 1, 1858.

(Received October 2, 1858.)

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you the Barbados Blue Book for the Year 1857, and to offer the following observations thereon:—

2. Having in my report on the Blue Book for 1856 submitted lengthened explanations on the fiscal position of the colony, the course of its trade, and the nature of its various institutions, my principal duty on the present occasion will be to institute a comparison between the operations of the past year and those of the preceding one.

Revenue and Expenditure.

3. I estimated the annual revenue of the colony in my last report at about 80,000*l.* The actual receipts in 1857 were 82,592*l.* 14*s.* 10*d.*, and there was no material increase or falling off in an any particular branch.

4. The expenditure for 1857 was considerably in excess of that of 1856. This arose from causes which I shall briefly explain. About 11,500*l.* was expended on a new steam dredge, on the public wharves, and in blasting operations in the careenage. In 1856 the expenditure under that head was about 500*l.* The Government House was under repair in both years, but the expenditure in 1857 exceeded by 1,100*l.* that in 1856. There were also increased grants in 1857 to the general hospital, to the roads, and to the educational board, making an aggregate of 21,077*l.* of disbursements in excess of 1856.

5. It is gratifying to me to be able to report that, notwithstanding the increased expenditure during last year to which I have called attention, there has been no diminution in the available surplus, which was 21,359*l.* 13*s.* 5*d.* at the close of 1857, against 19,737*l.* 5*s.* 5*d.* at the same period of 1856.

Public Works.

6. In my last report I indicated the probable expenditure under this head. The Government House has been completely rebuilt, but some of the out-offices are still in the same dilapidated condition as the main building prior to its reconstruction. The public offices have not been commenced; but plans and estimates are under consideration. The Mole head improvements are in progress, and the steam dredge is at last in complete working order.

Imports and Exports.

7. The official returns show a great increase in the value of the exports of the colony, the aggregate having been 1,345,361*l.* 8*s.* 4*d.* in 1587, against 921,028*l.* 7*s.* 3*d.* in 1856. I must, however, offer some remarks in explanation of this important return.

8. I drew attention in my last report to the extent of the intercolonial trade between Barbados and the other West India colonies, owing to the windward position of the former, which renders it a convenient depôt for the latter.

9. I find that the exports from Barbados to the British Islands were 183,167*l.* in 1857, against 152,426*l.* in 1856; to British Guiana 87,759*l.* in 1857, against 35,690*l.* in 1856. The aggregate exports to the neighbouring colonies, therefore, were 85,000*l.* more in 1857 than in 1856. I stated in my last report that the exports of 1856 had been considerably under estimated, and that 130,000*l.* might safely be added to the value of the staple article of export. With these allowances, the exports of 1857 would be about 150,000*l.*, higher in value than those of 1856.

10. The imports of 1857 are stated in the official returns to have been 976,306*l.* in 1857, against 841,254*l.* in 1856; but the local consumption did not increase to this extent, for, as I have already pointed out, a considerable portion of the imports was re-exported to the neighbouring colonies.

11. It may be interesting to notice the course of trade between Barbados and other countries. The imports from the United Kingdom were 475,855*l.* in 1857, against 351,440*l.* in 1856; and the exports thereto 937,822*l.* in 1857, against 660,959*l.* in 1856.

12. Referring to particular items, there was an increased importation in 1857 of linens and cottons to the extent of 33,424*l.*, butter 2,793*l.*, bricks 1,719*l.*, corn and grain 6,556*l.*, coals 2,759*l.*, copper 4,608*l.*, cordage 2,903*l.*, hardware 12,000*l.*, manures 24,392*l.* (the direct importation of guano was proportionately less), salted meats 13,479*l.*, soap 2,961*l.*, machinery 2,483*l.*, woodhoops 1,795*l.*

13. The imports from the United States were 244,955*l.* in 1857, against 274,030*l.* in 1856, and the exports thereto 92,919*l.* in 1857, against 74,510*l.* in 1856. The falling-off in the imports from the United States was chiefly in the articles of bread, salted meats, corn and grain, and corn meal. In these articles there was a decreased importation in 1857 of 42,689*l.*, while there was an increased importation, of horses and mules 5,405*l.*, lumber 8,567*l.*, tobacco 4,655*l.*, and cordage 5,135*l.*

14. The imports from the British North American colonies were 101,393*l.* in 1857, against 72,069*l.* in 1856, and the exports thereto 29,412*l.*, against 29,014*l.* There was an increased importation of fish to the extent of 11,869*l.*, and of lumber, including shingles and staves, to that of 14,039*l.*

15. The imports from the British colonies in the West Indies were 100,023*l.* in 1857, against 77,925*l.* in 1856. This inter-colonial trade is one of great importance to Barbados, and the returns prove that it is in a flourishing condition.

Gaols and Prisoners.

16. The returns show that the total number of prisoners in confinement at Michaelmas 1857 was 322, against 393 at the same period in 1856, and that the greatest number in confinement at any one time in 1857 was 502, against 557 in 1856.

17. Although the means of classifying the prisoners are defective, and will necessarily continue so until the projected extension of Glendairy Prison shall have been completed, yet there are so many places of confinement in the island, and at such convenient distances, that it is found practicable to have two prisons for females, one for boys, one for males summarily convicted, one for the worst felons, who are confined in separate cells and the common gaol, which admits of partial classification.

Agriculture.

18. The compiler of the Blue Book has had again to report his inability to furnish reliable agricultural statistics, owing to the reluctance exhibited by many of the leading proprietors to supply the required information. It will, I fear, be found impossible to obtain returns from the estates without a compulsory enactment; and in the present state of public opinion the recommendation of such a measure would merely create irritation without being productive of any good. It may be hoped that in the course of time the proprietors will become convinced that this information is sought for with a view to their own benefit.

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19. It is stated in the Blue Book, that according to a rough estimate there are upwards of 100,000 acres of land in cultivation in the island, 30,000 of which are annually planted in canes, the remainder being planted in provisions, or with grass as forage for the cattle. I shall proceed to state the result of my own inquiries on the subject.

20. The island contains about 106,500 acres of land, which may, I think, be fairly divided as follows:—Cane land in the sugar estates, 55,000 acres; pasture land, town plots, ordnance land, roads, yards, and land unfit for cultivation, 31,500 acres; labourers' allotments, 9,500; and land of small proprietors, 10,500. Of the 55,000 acres of cane land, 30,000 acres may be estimated as annually reaped, the remaining portion being in young canes for the crop of the following year, and 5,000 acres being a rough estimate of the land in ratoons. Provisions are chiefly grown on the cane lands in the interval between the reaping of one crop and the planting of the next.

21. There can, I think, be little doubt that the produce of the land in the labourers' allotments and in the holdings of the small proprietors is from 7,000 to 8,000 hogsheads. In Dr. Davy's "West Indies before and since Emancipation" the labourers crop of 1846–7 is stated to have been 7,000 hogsheads. I have no doubt, however, that this included the crop of the small proprietors.

22. It is a remarkable circumstance, that in this island, where land is held at such high prices, ranging in small parcels from 400$ to 700$ per acre, the labouring classes should already have acquired so large a proportion of that available for cultivation, which probably does not much, if at all, exceed 75,000 acres. It furnishes striking evidence of the industry of the population.

23. It is likewise a fact deserving of notice, that in no other colony, so far as my information extends, are the labourers so much encouraged to cultivate the sugar cane on their own account. I believe that the liberality of the proprietary body in aiding the labourers to reap and manufacture their small cane crops has been attended with the best results, and has been the principal means of restricting that emigration which the higher wages given in one or two of the other colonies would otherwise have induced.

24. It is not by any means an uncommon thing for labourers on a Barbadian estate to make 20 to 25 hogsheads of sugar, which in ordinary times would be worth from 250*l.* to 400*l.*

Concluding Remarks.

25. It is gratifying to me to be able to report, that the past year has been marked by the establishment of voluntary associations among the proprietors for promoting the amelioration of the condition of the labouring classes.

26. One of these associations has been formed in London by the non-resident proprietors, and two others have been established in the island. Among many reforms which have engaged the consideration of the local associations has been a change in the tenure of the land leased to the labourers.

27. I have long been of opinion that the abandonment of the sugar estates by the creole labourers in many of the West India colonies is mainly to be attributed to the unsatisfactory tenure established at the period of emancipation, under the mistaken idea of keeping the labourers in a state of dependence on the proprietors.

28. It is not in the West Indies alone that cheap land has led to a scarcity of agricultural labourers, and of course to high rates of wages. The same cause has produced a like result in Canada and the United States.

29. But in my opinion the West India planter has a most important advantage over the Canadian farmer, owing to the fact that the staple tropical product, the sugar cane, must be manufactured on the spot, and that the skill and capital required for this purpose place it out of the power of ordinary labourers to cultivate the cane without the aid of capitalists.

30. It is, moreover, admitted on all hands that the most profitable tropical product is the sugar cane, and that it would be for the general interest of the community, proprietors as well as labourers, that all available labour should be employed in the production of this plant.

31. It is in my opinion a fatal error to rest satisfied with the common allegation that the creole labourers are notoriously idle, and inclined to relapse into barbarism. It must, I think, be conceded, that the exceptions are too marked and too numerous not to render such an assertion a very unsafe guide for a statesman.

32. What are the ordinary inducements to industry on the part of creole labourers? In most of the colonies circumstances have rendered it difficult if not impossible for them to cultivate the cane. Their industry is chiefly employed in the raising of provisions, for which there is a very limited demand, and which if redundantly supplied would fall in price.

33. It may be alleged that it would be open to the labourers to cultivate the cane on their allotments on the sugar estates, as indeed they do in Barbados; but there is a simple and obvious reason for their not doing so elsewhere even, if they were permitted by the proprietors. No man will remain as a tenant at will, liable to ejectment at a few days' notice, if he can obtain a freehold of his own.

34. The tenure, I have no doubt, drives the labourers from the sugar estates, and when removed from them the cultivation of the cane is out of their power. In Barbados the labourers remain on the estates, not because they like the tenure, but because the scarcity and high price of land place freeholds beyond their reach; but even there the fact to which I have elsewhere referred, that 10,000 acres of land have already been acquired by the industrious classes, is conclusive proof that the tenure is only submitted to from necessity.

35. I believe that if at the period of emancipation the small allotments had been granted in freehold to the labourers, or even sold to them at prices as low as they could have got land elsewhere, and if at the same time encouragement had been given to them by the manufacture of their small crops which would have been raised by the labour of extra hours, there would have been little, if any, abandonment of the estates.

36. I am persuaded that the dependence of the proprietors and labourers on one another would have produced the best results, and would have led to mutual good feeling, to the absence of which many of the calamities which have been experienced are to be attributed.

37. It is certainly a remarkable fact, that in Barbados, where alone the labourer is dependent on the proprietor both for employment and for the land on which he lives, and where consequently the latter can dictate his own terms as to the tenure of land, the first movement should be voluntarily made by enlightened planters towards the establishment of a better system.

38. It is equally remarkable that the wages of the labourers in Barbados are as high as in many of the adjoining colonies where property is less than one fifth of the price which it commands here.

39. The opinion is so general that the prosperity of Barbados is to be ascribed solely to the abundance and cheapness of its labour, that it is not without hesitation that I venture to state the opinion which I have formed on that subject, which, however, is the result of information derived from the most experienced planters.

40. I am convinced that it is to the economical management of labour and to agricultural skill that the prosperity of Barbados is mainly to be attributed. The use of the plough and of other implements of husbandry may be found impracticable in other colonies, but if so I fear that sugar cannot be produced so cheaply as in those colonies where such facilities are attainable by the planters. The advantage which Barbados enjoys is rather in the small number of labourers required to cultivate the estates, and to the skilful and economical management of the latter, than in the superabundant supply of labour.

41. There can, I think, be little doubt that the number of labourers employed in the production of sugar in Barbados is much less in proportion than in those colonies from which the strongest complaints have been made of the scarcity of labour.

42. I have already estimated the land available for cane cultivation in this island, exclusive of that held by small proprietors and that occupied in allotments by the labourers, at 55,000 acres. According to the best information within my reach, the number of agricultural labourers employed does not exceed 22,000, or $2\frac{1}{2}$ acres to each. This will be considered a very large proportion of labourers, when compared with England, even making ample allowance for the number engaged in the manufacture of the crop.

43. It must be borne in mind that not more than 30,000 acres of the above 55,000 are in canes for the crop of each year, and these, if the season be favourable, will yield an average of $1\frac{1}{2}$ hogsheads of sugar per acre, though $1\frac{1}{4}$ hogsheads is probably as much as can safely be calculated on.

44. I think that the planters' crop, excluding that of the small proprietors' and labourers' will hardly average 40,000 hogsheads, but it may be estimated at that in round figures, which would give nearly $1\frac{7}{8}$ hogsheads to each labourer. In estimating 22,000 labourers as the maximum number employed, I should observe that I have assumed all to be first-

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class labourers, due allowance having been made for women in the second-class and children. There are about three fourths of the labourers in the first class, and one eighth in each of the others. I estimate that on an average 200 days' labour is given by each labourer in the year; and as wages vary from 10*d.* to 1*s.* per task, I have taken 11*d.* as a fair average.

45. By this calculation 5*l.* 0*s.* 10*d.* would be the cost of labour in each hogshead of sugar averaging about 15 cwt. net in England. I admit that this would be considered by many planters as a low estimate, but I give it as the result of careful inquiry on a subject on which it is difficult to obtain precise information. Of course the cost of labour differs materially on the various estates, according to the skill and economy with which they are conducted, and it is desirable, in stating my own opinions, to accompany them with those of others. I may therefore mention that two agricultural societies in this island estimated the cost of labour per hogshead in the year 1847 at 6*l.* 5*s.* Since that period there can be no doubt that, owing to a more extended use of implements and of increased economy, the cost has been reduced; and it has been repeatedly stated to me that 5*l.* is an ample allowance. I have tested the accuracy of these statements in various ways; and I have seen returns from well-managed estates, showing the amount paid for wages during several years, the average having been under 4*l.* per hogshead. My own conviction is that my average is rather over than under the actual cost of labour.

46. It is considered in Barbados that the miscellaneous expenses on an estate, viz., casks, salaries of managers and skilled workmen, cost of manures and other supplies, maintenance of stock, and wear and tear of buildings and machinery, are rather more than the cost of labour; and 10*l.* per hogshead is now considered a full estimate for the entire cost of production of the sugar crop including rum, molasses, and provisions, irrespective of the interest of invested capital.

47. It seems to me most improbable, looking to the prices which have been paid for estates during the last few years by gentlemen of large property and great experience, that the cost of labour per hogshead can be greater than I have estimated it at, and if not the statement as to the number employed on the estates must be tolerably accurate.

48. It is satisfactory to be able to report, in conclusion, that the labouring classes seem to be contented, and that a good understanding prevails between them and their employers, who manifest an increasing interest in the social improvement of the masses of the people.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. HINCKS.

The Right Hon. Sir E. B. Lytton, Bart.,
&c. &c. &c.

GRENADA.

GRENADA.

No. 14.

No. 14.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor HINCKS to the Right Honourable Lord STANLEY.

(No. 19.)

Windward Islands, Barbados,
May 10, 1858.

(Received May 31, 1858.)

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship the copy of a Despatch from the Lieutenant-Governor of Grenada, together with the Blue Book for the year 1857, and three enclosures accompanying it.

I have, &c.
(Signde) F. HINCKS.

The Right Hon. Lord Stanley,
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure 1 in No. 14.

GRENADA.

Encl. in No.14.

(No. 35.)

SIR, Government Office, Grenada, April 16, 1858.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you the Blue Book for the year 1857, together with my report thereon.

2. It is with pleasure that I have to remark that the state of the finances during the whole of the year has been most satisfactory. The fixed revenue, amounting to 11,994*l.* 7*s.* 11*d.*, has exceeded that of 1856 by 1,156*l.* 16*s.* 1*d.* The increase on imports has been 1,303*l.* 8*s.* 10*d.* A corresponding augmentation of tonnage dues has taken place; whilst under the heads of water tax, spirit licences, and duty on rum there has been a decrease. The incidental receipts, amounting to 5,493*l.* 6*s.* 1*d.*, have fallen somewhat short of those of 1856. This sum includes a loan of 1,400*l.*

3. The arrears of revenue of the previous year were 1,436*l.* 2*s.* 1*d.*, and the total amount collected during the year 1857 has been 17,487*l.* 14*s.*, and the total expenditure 13,544*l.* 17*s.* 7*d.*, leaving a surplus in the treasury at the end of the year of 5,378*l.* 18*s* 6*d.*, and showing a decrease in the expenditure, compared with 1856, of 1,909*l.* 1*s.* 5*d.*

This saving has been effected principally by the abolition of the offices of comptroller of colonial customs and of inspector of police, and by a reduction in the salary of the public treasurer and in the pay of the police force.

RECAPITULATION.

	1856.			1857.			——			
	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*	
Fixed Revenue - - -	10,837	11	10	11,994	7	11	1,156	16	1	Increase
Incidental Receipts - - -	5,613	9	1	5,493	6	1	120	3	0	Decrease
Total Revenue - -	16,451	0	11	17,487	14	0	1,036	13	1	Total increase in 1857.
Arrears of preceding year - -	4,390	0	2	1,436	2	1				——
Total Amount at Disposal of Colony	16,890	1	1	18,923	16	1				——
Expenditure - - - -	15,453	19	0	13,544	17	7	1,909	1	5	Decrease in 1857.

Surplus on the 31st December 1857 - - £5,378 18 6

5. In January 1857 a debt of 1,400*l.*, bearing interest at the rate of 6 per centum per annum, payable quarterly, and redeemable at the expiration of 5 years, was incurred to meet the exigencies of the colony. This amount is chargeable on the general revenues of the island. A sum of 360*l.* was raised by the Supply Act of March 1857, for the payment of the interest, and for the formation of a sinking fund for the liquidation of the debt. An Act has lately been passed authorizing the deposit of this money at interest in the Colonial Bank. The state of the finances for the past year marks a favourable change in the condition of the island, the increased revenue having arisen from an augmentation in the imports, and not from any incidental receipts.

6. Some time since the question of the entire abolition of customs duties was one which occupied the public mind, and which found many advocates in this community. Discussion upon the subject has lately been revived in consequence of a letter which appeared in the "Chronicle" newspaper of the 13th of March last, addressed to the editor by Mr. Thomson Hankey, M.P., the agent for the colony, a copy of which I transmit herewith. The advantages that the colony would derive from relieving all imports into it from duties have not been exaggerated by Mr. Hankey. There is no doubt that the mercantile body would import more largely; that what are now called luxuries, and which as such are liable to a heavy duty, would be placed within reach of all classes, and that the facility with which they might be obtained would cause them ere long to be regarded by the labouring population as necessaries; and I believe that one of the greatest auxiliaries to the advancement of civilization among the black population in the West Indies would be the introduction of comforts, or comparative luxuries, at so cheap a rate as to make them common in every cottage.

7. I entirely concur, therefore, with the opinion of those who contend that the removal of all restrictions on the entry of shipping and the importation of goods into the island would be of material benefit to the whole population; and that the principle of establishing free ports, whenever practicable, is sound. It must not be forgotten, on the other hand, that if the system has its advantages, there are numerous and very great difficulties to be overcome before it can be brought into operation.

8. The revenue derived from imports amounted last year to 7,993*l.* 5*s.* 2*d.*, or in round numbers to 8,000*l.* If this large item of revenue is to be given up, it is perfectly clear that we must be prepared with an equivalent, in order to maintain the revenue in its present condition. This can only be done by direct taxation, and the difficulties of making a total change in the mode of taxation must be seriously weighed and most gravely considered.

9. Duties on imports are not felt in any way burdensome; it is a system to which the people are accustomed, and to which they offer no objection. Those who are acquainted with the West Indies,

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and with the character of the labouring population, are aware of the horror with which they regard any attempts at direct taxation. It is difficult to persuade them that it would be conducive to their good; and it is very doubtful whether they could be brought to consider an improvement in their social position as an equivalent for an increased taxation. I feel satisfied that no reliance could be placed on the countenance or support of the majority of the upper or middle classes, some from objecting to the principle of the measure, and some from alarm at the probable opposition of the lower orders to the introduction of a system of internal assessments. I know, from experience, that the collection of direct taxes is at all times difficult, and generally very imperfect, and I believe that in Grenada it would be attended with much greater expense proportionably than the collection of customs duties.

10. The great and principal difficulty to be encountered and overcome would be the prejudices of nearly the whole population of Grenada, with the exception, perhaps, of the mercantile body. I confess that in the present state of the West Indies, taking into consideration the excitable character of the labouring class, and the really little influence possessed over them in this island by the planters as a body, even supposing that the latter should be brought to take a favourable view of the subject, I consider that an attempt to introduce a sudden change in the mode of taxation would be an experiment fraught with so large an amount of danger, and that the risk and responsibility attendant on the levying direct taxes to the amount of 8,000*l.* would be so great, that it would be unwise to attempt it until the minds of the people had been fully prepared for so great an innovation. As a preparatory measure, however, and as one which would, I believe, to a considerable extent, increase the imports, I am quite prepared to recommend the abolition of the tonnage duties on vessels discharging or receiving cargo in the ports of this island. The amount raised by these duties during 1857 did not exceed 830*l.* 17*s.* 5*d.* This small sum would, I have reason to believe, be more than made up by the increase in the imports consequent on the abolition of a law which subjects the transient trader to a tonnage duty on the burthen of his vessel of at least 4½*d.* in the ton on the smallest trade that he may have with this island, the largest duty being 1*s.* 6*d.*, there being an intermediate one of 9*d.* in the ton. A Bill was some time since introduced into the House of Assembly for the purpose of relaxing these duties in certain cases. The report of the attorney general upon it was unfavourable, and pointed out several defects in it which would have rendered the Act ineffective in its operation. I thought this a good opportunity to recommend that all the Acts connected with tonnage should be taken into consideration by the legislature, with a view to their consolidation. Since then I have adopted the opinion that it would be advantageous in many respects, and perfectly safe, to repeal the laws altogether. Should the deficiency caused in the revenue by the abolition of tonnage duties fail to be met by an increase in the imports, I do not believe that any opposition would be offered to low stamp duties on deeds, law proceedings, and other written or printed instruments; nor to duties on legacies and successions to personal estates on intestacies. I am not in a position at present to state what amount might be raised by a Stamp Act of this description, but should it prove productive the tariff of import duties might be reduced.

11. A land tax imposed for the first time last year yielded 1,193*l.* 5*s.* 7*d.*, being nearly 200*l.* in excess of the sum which it was calculated the rate would produce. In my Despatch, No. 14, Legislative, of the 12th March 1857, I expressed an opinion entirely favourable to a land tax, as one of the most legitimate that could be imposed, although I did not thoroughly approve of the principle on which this one was to be adjusted. It appears, however, to have worked tolerably well for the one year that it has been tried. The small settlers paid cheerfully, although they were taxed proportionably higher than the larger proprietors; indeed by these latter alone has any dislike to the tax been evinced. A strong attempt was made this year by the planters in the House of Assembly to get rid of it; they have not succeeded, but I regret to say that it has been reduced to one-half. This demonstrates clearly the opposition that would be offered by the planters to a system of internal taxation. They appear to consider that if the abolition or relaxation of the customs duties necessitated an increased direct taxation on themselves, the merchants would be benefited at their cost, forgetting that it can be of no essential consequence to them whether they pay a certain amount in the shape of a tax on their land or as import duties on those articles necessary for their consumption and for the cultivation of the land, and keeping out of view the principle that if low customs duties would tend to the general benefit of the island, they must of necessity be participators, in common with the mercantile body, in any amelioration that might take place in the condition of the country.

12 The Executive Council, established towards the end of 1856, vested with all the powers of the Privy Council, consisting of ten members selected from the two deliberative branches of the legislature, care having been taken to appoint the most influential members of the Assembly, has undoubtedly proved of great service, by bringing the Governor into immediate connection with the legislature, by enabling him to ascertain the views and opinions of the House on most matters of importance, and by placing the legislature in possession of his ideas, without having to resort to the old custom of communicating them by means of messages, which could rarely convey such full explanations as were necessary to elucidate a subject, unless extended to a length that would rather weary than command the attention of the members. The dispassionate consideration by a Council of ten of most measures of importance previously to their being placed before the legislature is without doubt an immense improvement on the old system, under which the most momentous questions were initiated by independent members, and were taken up and dealt with by the House with probably very little, if any, previous consideration, the result, as might be expected, being too frequently a crude and imperfect measure, for which no one was responsible. With these manifest advantages the Executive Council is not yet by any means perfect in its constitution. Of the ten members of which it is composed, three only reside in town, and it is only on such occasions as the meetings of the courts of law or of the

egislature that a full board can be expected. Of the three members residing in town, one, a merchant, is seldom able to leave his business, and another is too infirm to give much attention to public matters. Were it not for the regular attendance of two gentlemen residing some few miles from St. George's, who have frequently at great personal inconvenience placed their services at my disposal whenever I required them, and performed gratuitously the duties of a working committee, the Executive Council would have entirely failed in the object it was intended to effect.

13. It is evident that in order to render the Executive Council practically useful, and to carry out to its full extent the purpose for which it was established, it is necessary to provide salaries for the members of a working committee, for it is not to be expected that they would willingly bear, without remuneration, the responsibility and actual labour which their political and executive position would impose on such a committee.

14. The legislature met on the 3d of November, and that being the commencement of another financial year, with the advice and concurrence of the Executive Council, I availed myself of the opportunity this circumstance afforded me to open the legislature in person, and to make it acquainted with my views on the subject of a paid executive committee. A Bill, having for its models the Jamaica, Tobago, and St. Christopher Executive Committee Acts, was prepared and submitted to the Assembly. It proposed to provide salaries for the members of an executive committee, to consist of three persons selected from the legislative bodies, who should be the responsible advisers of the Governor, assisting him in the administration, and performing certain executive duties now performed by joint legislative committees; and it followed, with slight deviation, the wording of the Acts to which I have referred. I am sorry to say it has met with great opposition in the House of Assembly. I believe that personal feeling of enmity and dislike for some of the members of the Executive Council have had more to do with the violence and determination of the opposition than any real aversion to the measure itself. There are two provisions in the Bill which its opponents contend would encroach on the privileges and diminish the powers of the Assembly. The first is the clause which provides that all motions for grants and appropriations of money should originate in the House with the members of the executive committee or with their sanction, and the second is the provision that the Governor and the executive committee shall discharge the duties of a board of audit and all other administrative duties now performed by joint committees of the two deliberative branches of the legislature. In no part of the Bill are its usefulness and merit in my opinion more conspicuous than in these two clauses, and the evils of the present system have clearly pointed out the necessity of applying the proposed remedy. On the government devolves the task of preparing the annual estimates of ways and means to meet the expenditure that may be deemed necessary to carry on public business. Whilst individual members enjoy the privilege of moving for votes of money after forty-eight hours' notice, the financial arrangements of the government must be at all times open to be disturbed, and the grave consideration which has been given to them rendered nugatory. It is also to be observed, that these money votes are not always referred to a committee of supply, where the whole financial question is under consideration, but are frequently made in the House, if their respective amounts do not exceed 100*l.* The sums thus voted appear small by themselves; but as the year advances they creep up, and reach an amount which probably the Assembly would never have agreed to if it had been asked for in the aggregate. I am perfectly convinced that until so vicious a system is abolished, and the power of moving for money grants is vested solely in a responsible government, or is exercised by others only with its sanction, the finances of the colony can never be placed on a secure or healthy footing. With regard to the second objection, those even most opposed to the principle of imposing certain administrative duties, now performed by joint committees, on the members of an executive committee, will, I believe, not deny that it is with the greatest difficulty that the members of the several committees can be brought together when their services are required. They are scattered over the island in all directions, and, with few exceptions, do not consider themselves bound to give up their time and to sacrifice their convenience; and I admit that the sacrifice is frequently great, to perform public duties for which they receive no remuneration whatever. The inevitable consequence is, that the business of the colony is retarded, the public accounts remain unaudited, and the credit of the colony falls in proportion to the delay which takes place in liquidating its liabilities.

15. A considerable portion of what I have said with reference to the joint committees applies also to the House of Assembly. It is composed principally of planters who cannot well afford to absent themselves from their homes for more than two days at a time to attend to their legislative duties. The business of the House generally commences late on the first day, and by two or three o'clock on the following day most of the country members are anxious to return home, and little time being left for the consideration of important measures, they are either hurried through, or unavoidably postponed until another session of similar duration. In such a state of things it is of urgent necessity that all subjects for legislation should be well and thoroughly considered before they are submitted to the House; and it appears to me that the only efficient mode of securing such a consideration would be by the employment of paid persons officially responsible to the legislative bodies.

16. The number of Acts passed by the legislature during the year 1857 has not exceeded seven. Of these probably only two require to be specially noticed. The first in importance is the one constituting a board of education, and the second the one providing for the establishment of a court of appeal. By the former Act the legislature, with commendable liberality, has placed at the disposal of a board of seven members, presided over by the Governor, the sum of 1,200*l.* annually for educational purposes. Provision is made in the Act for the appointment of a head master and inspector of schools, who is also to be the principal of a grammar and training school in the town of St. George. Unfortunately, as yet, the duties of the board of education have been merely nominal, owing to the diffi-

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culty which has occurred in procuring a fit and proper person for the head master, and the total want of practical knowledge in the members of the board. The old system of schools being under the uncontrolled superintendence of the clergymen of the several religious denominations, therefore, still exists, and I do not feel justified in reporting any improvement in educational matters. There is some hope, however, that no long time will now elapse before the groundwork of a better system will be laid, as the colony has fortunately secured the services of a gentleman having the highest testimonials of competency, and recommended as possessing qualifications of no ordinary description for the discharge of the very difficult duty which will be entrusted to him. He will have no light task in organising and reducing to a systemized form elements of the most antagonistic and conflicting nature. Mr. Noble is daily expected from Europe, and I trust that those who profess to feel an interest in the cause of education, and the upper class generally, will second his efforts, and give some tangible proof of their desire to see instruction disseminated among the peasantry of the island. Without support of this kind, and the hearty co-operation of the clergy, I feel convinced that not only will Mr. Noble be doomed to the disappointment consequent on the expenditure of talents and energy without a corresponding return, but that also the legislative grant will be totally inadequate to maintain in a state of efficiency the large number of schools which are necessary, in consequence of the variety of the religious denominations in the island, and the determined objection of the clergy to sanction the attendance of the children of their several congregations at any schools not presided over by themselves respectively, or by persons holding their tenets. I fear too that the class to which we might legitimately look for assistance does not view the education of the masses as an object of primary importance.

17. The next most important legislative Act for the last year, the providing for a court of appeal, scarcely demands any comment on my part, not because I underrate its importance, or the benefit it is calculated to be to this island, in common with such others of the general government of the Windward Islands as have adopted a similar one, but because it was taken from an Act passed in Barbados, with only such alterations as were necessary to adapt it to this island, and had been before considered and approved of by Her Majesty's Government, both in principle and in detail. Appeals will probably be of very rare occurrence; but the fact that a court for such appeals exists, and is easy of access, will greatly add to the authority of the judgments of the courts of this island in the estimation of the people. The advantages which may result from the establishment of this court are to be obtained, in so far as Grenada is concerned, at the very moderate yearly maximum cost of 175*l*., while it is highly probable that less than one-half of that amount will be generally sufficient to defray the proportion of the expenses &c. to be borne by this island.

18. The militia of Grenada consists at present of a volunteer artillery corps, formed immediately after the withdrawal of Her Majesty's troops. It is composed of persons holding respectable positions in the community, and is officered by merchants carrying on business in the town of St. George. In 1855 a Militia Act was passed, giving legislative sanction to the corps, and limiting its strength to sixty men. It also authorized the raising of a company of rifles in each parish, not to exceed in the aggregate 1000 men. The artillery has attained a state of efficiency which reflects credit on the exertions of the officers, and on the patience with which the privates have submitted to the tediousness of drill and restraints of military discipline. A variety of causes have conspired to retard the enrolment of the rifle corps, the most prominent of which are, the delay that has occurred in providing arms for their use, and the disinclination of the men to furnish uniforms at their own expense. The legislature has this year granted 400*l*. for militia purposes, and I have ordered from England clothing to equip one company of rifles at Carriacou, and one in the town of St. George. This force, in concert with the artillery, is sufficient to repress any attempt at riot or tumult in the town, and will probably form the nucleus of a militia on a more extensive scale.

19. Considerable improvement has taken place in the roads since the appointment of a "surveyor of roads and public buildings," in 1855. The only public work of any importance completed during the past year has been the relaying of the pipes for the introduction of water into the town of St. George, at a cost of 950*l*. The public buildings have been kept generally in good order.

20. The scarcity of agricultural labour and immigration, are the two subjects which at present engross the minds of not only the planters, but of all persons connected with the West Indies, and interested in their present state and future prospects. Grenada, owing to its climate and fertility of soil, is capable of supporting in comfort and comparative affluence a population nearly double that it now possesses. Not more than 30,000 persons are scattered over an area of 83,451 acres or thereabouts. The facility with which land may be obtained induces an occasional serious want of labour on the sugar estates, which will in each successive year be more severely felt, not only in consequence of the daily secession of labourers from the ranks of hired servants to become proprietors on their own account, but also, I regret to say, from actual emigration to Trinidad. It is true that of those who leave this island a greater part return generally penniless, and so demoralized by their contact and companionship with a labouring people collected from all quarters of the world, and probably possessing all the vices which the amalgamation of a variety of races is apt to produce, that they have become unsettled in their habits, and utterly useless as labourers in their own country. It is difficult to assign any one reason of sufficient weight to be a conclusive one for this propensity in the native labourer to emigrate. The planters will tell you that the wages are not higher in Trinidad than in Grenada. If you ask the labourer what he has benefited by his residence in Trinidad, and whether he has saved money, he will tell you that he has had "too much pleasure," but that he has saved nothing, that he has gained more money than he would have done in the same period of time in Grenada, but that everything is so much dearer in Trinidad that he has spent his earnings as quickly as he has acquired them. There is probably some truth in this, and that whilst living is more expensive there are also

many more inducements to dissipation and extravagance in Trinidad than in Granada. Agents from Trinidad are constantly finding their way among our labouring population, and I have no doubt hold out allurements of higher wages and pleasure, which to those springing up into manhood, and unrestrained by any obligation of gratitude to those who might have exercised a salutary influence over them, are irresistible. It is far easier to see the evils attendant upon this constant emigration of labourers than to devise a remedy for them. The planters are urgent in their demand for legislative interference; but I am at a loss to conceive what measures can be passed by the legislature to prevent persons from exercising their undoubted right of going whither they please, and of choosing their own place of abode. The class of vessels engaged in the Trinidad trade, and used to convey labourers to that island, are of a description utterly unfit for the service in which they are employed. They average from eight to fifteen tons, and frequently carry from thirty to forty persons of all ages and of both sexes. Not only is this crowding together of so many individuals into a small space highly objectionable, on the ground of morality and common decency, but is attended with imminent risk to the lives of all on board in the event of bad weather. It is very desirable that some course should be adopted to regulate the number of passengers to be carried in these small vessels according to their tonnage. I have been frequently requested to issue a proclamation for the purpose of subjecting them to the provisions of the Passengers' Act, 1855, but, with every desire to check an undeniable evil, I cannot adopt so free a construction of the 97th clause of the Imperial Act as to feel myself justified in declaring the duration of the voyage between Grenada and Trinidad to exceed three days. I believe that if a remedy exists it is in the hands of the planters themselves. An increased rate of wages might possibly have some good effect, but the relation between master and servant must be subjected to an entire change, the mutual distrust existing between the two classes must disappear, before a healthier state of things can be brought about. It is a question difficult of solution, whether this evil is not now too deeply seated to be removed.

21. Annexed is a report from Mr. Cockburn, the immigration agent and acting stipendiary magistrate, containing some valuable remarks respecting the coolie immigrants who arrived here in May last. It is gratifying to find that the care and attention bestowed on them by their employers at the time of their arrival, when they were not in a condition to make much return, have been appreciated by them, and that their services are found to be most valuable. They appear to be exceeding tractable, but jealous of their rights, and keenly alive to any act of injustice. Mr. Cockburn evidently takes great interest in them, and has established among them so high a character for impartiality that they are perfectly satisfied to abide by his decision, and to be guided by his advice in any difference between themselves and their masters. They are classed in the same way as the native labourers, according to their usefulness and capability for work, and receive the same rate of wages, 10*d.* a day for the 1st class, and 8*d.* and 6*d.* for the 2d and 3d, and 3*d.* for extra hours in crop time. They have not availed themselves of the privilege of cultivating gardens on their own account, but are supplied with rice, fish, &c., on the estates at cost price. Mr. Cockburn reports that they are saving money.

22. The growing independence of the native labourer, and his consequent secession from work on the estates, will soon create a void in the labour market which will render a stream of immigration necessary to keep up the cultivation of the staple product of the island. It is generally admitted that the African makes the most efficient labourer, but if he is not to be obtained, the Indian appears to be well qualified to take the place of the creole. It is a remarkable fact, alluded to by Mr. Cockburn, that, so far from the immigrant being regarded by the native labourer with jealousy, he is rather viewed as one of the means destined to emancipate the latter from the necessity of offering his services for hire, and to enable him to become a cultivator of the soil for his own special benefit.

23. A proprietary body of considerable magnitude and importance has already risen from the labouring class, and several of its members are possessed of sufficient means to carry on beneficially agricultural pursuits. Mr. Cockburn's remarks, bearing upon this subject, contain some valuable information, and as he is a native of Grenada, possessed of considerable ability, and has been an eye-witness of the changes which have taken place of late years in the social condition of the island, I believe that much reliance may be placed on the correctness of his statements.

24. If it is desirable that the sugar estates should remain in the hands of the present class of proprietors, I am convinced that an abundant and immediate flow of immigration is necessary. The beneficial result of the very inconsiderable accession of labourers from India by the "Maidstone" is very visible in the parish of St. Patrick, where they are principally located; and I am informed by the planters of that district, that the proceeds of the crop now in course of manufacture will largely exceed that of 1857, which improvement they ascribe in a great measure to their having had a constant supply of labour.

25. In order to show the extraordinary effects of immigration where labour is scarce, I give an extract of a letter written to me by a gentleman largely connected with estates here as well as in Trinidad, to which island his communication has reference. He says,—"Having alluded before to the "colony of Trinidad, which has taken the lead of us in the system of immigration, perhaps it may not "be out of place to give the working of that system there as far as I can from my own knowledge. I "will confine myself to one estate there in which I am interested. During slavery it shipped about "120 hogsheads, which fell after emancipation to about 80 hogsheads; since the regular introduction "of Coolie immigrants the crop has steadily increased to 400 hogsheads, the wages of labour having "fallen from 2*s.* 6*d.* with rations to 10*d.* without rations, the present rate I pay." If such an increase in the produce of an estate in Trinidad could be caused by an additional supply of labour, there is no reason why a similar improvement, though I scarcely think to the same extent, might not be effected by the same means in Grenada.

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26. In conclusion, I have the satisfaction to state, that contentment appears to pervade all classes of the community, and that I know of no circumstance calculated to disturb the internal tranquillity of the island. Annexed is a return, showing the number of prisoners confined in the gaol during the year 1857, with the nature of their offences, and the amount of imprisonment awarded to them respectively. One person was convicted at the February Sessions of murder, and was executed in March. In other respects the return is satisfactory, exhibiting fifty-two convictions less in 1857 than in the preceding year.

I have, &c.

(Signed) C. H. KORTRIGHT.

His Excellency Governor Hincks,
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure 2 in No. 14.

Enclosure 2 in No. 14.

COMMUNICATION published in the St. George's Chronicle of March 13, 1858.

SIR,

I TRUST that I may be permitted to take advantage of your columns to bring under the notice of the whole community in Grenada a subject for their consideration, which, it appears to me, is second to none as regards the interest of all classes of the population in the island. I mean the question as to the expediency of continuing the present system of taxation, by which the revenue is now raised for the necessary expenditure of the government. I have on many occasions during the last six or seven years called the attention of private friends, who were taking an active part in the administration of affairs in the colony, to the advantage which in my opinion would be derived by the entire abolition of all customs duties, or charges on the entry of goods or shipping into the island of Grenada. The reply which I invariably received was, that the proportion of the revenue so collected was so large, and the habits of the people were so accustomed to that mode of taxation, it would be hopeless to expect to raise an adequate revenue for the necessary wants of the government in any other mode. Although I did not agree in the opinion as to the second argument, I could not deny at that time the fact that a very large proportion of the whole revenue was derived from duties on imports. This fact, however, has been materially altered during the last few years. I find, from the published reports, that in 1850, out of a total revenue of 15,641*l.*, the item of customs duties was 10,214*l.*, or in the proportion of nearly two-thirds of the whole. I have no statement before me of a more recent date than 1854; but I find, in that year, the amount raised by customs duties was 7,728*l.* out of the entire revenue of 15,266*l.*, or only one-half of the total income; and I find that the customs duties on import were still lower in 1855 than in 1854; so that, whilst the revenue has been nearly stationary, the part raised for customs has diminished by above 25 per cent.; or, in other words, that the customs duties produced in 1850 nearly 33 per cent. more than in 1854, and probably fully as much as 45 per cent. more than in 1855. On the other hand, I find that, whereas in 1850 the produce of assessed and other taxes was 5,427*l.*, in 1854 they produced 7,538*l.* Surely this fact is sufficient to call public attention to the consideration whether it might not be advisable to alter the present scheme of taxation. I have no documents to enable me to ascertain what is the expense attendant on the collection of customs duties; probably the expense in 1854, or at the present time, is not less than in 1850; and if so, the expense of collection bears now a far larger proportion to the net revenue than it did in 1850. If the expenditure of all kinds connected with the collection of customs revenue amounts to 900*l.* a year, the net revenue so raised is not now much above 6,000*l.* a year. Now, the point to which I wish to direct attention is, whether it might not be possible to substitute some kinds of direct taxation by which this sum of 6,000*l.* or even 7,000*l.* might be raised with greater benefit to the whole community.

To abolish all customs duties, and thus render all imports into the island perfectly free, would, as it appears to me, be productive of so much advantage to the whole population that I cannot believe there could be two opinions on the subject. No colony in the West Indies possesses greater advantages for encouragement of inter-colonial and other trade. The harbour of St. George's is, I believe, unrivalled, or certainly quite equal to that in any other West India colony, and there is no want of energy amongst the comparatively small mercantile community who are established in the island. The fact of the colony of Grenada being free to all comers, with every facility to receive and distribute the goods which might be attracted from Great Britain, America, and elsewhere, would induce, I should anticipate new establishments to enter into trade; and many now carrying on business have done so during late years, I believe, with reasonable success. The abolition of all duties on imports would so much reduce prices, that the working part of the population would find greater inducement to purchase articles, not only of general necessity, but even of comparative luxury; the supply would certainly keep pace with the increased demands, and not only would the trading community be placed in a more thriving position, but the working classes would find it more easy, with their present means, to supply themselves with many articles which are now scarcely brought under their notice. Every increase of wealth amongst the trading part of the community would tend to improve the substantial wealth and prosperity of the island. A successful merchant will be tempted, with present prices of freehold property, to invest his money either in land or houses, and improve whichever he purchased; and thus the whole property of the colony would be improved, and there would be greater means amongst the community from which the whole revenue required must be raised.

The landed proprietors might be alarmed at the prospect of an increase of direct taxation; but it must be immaterial to the land owner whether he is taxed for the land he cultivates or for the articles he consumes in living or in the cultivation of the soil, provided he does not pay more in the whole. The labouring classes might also be alarmed at a prospect of an increase of direct or personal taxation; but, besides the diminished cost of imported commodities, they would be bound to consider, and it ought to be shown to them, how large a proportion of the whole revenue of the colony is now spent for their immediate benefit. The total expenditure of the government has been increased during the period I have referred to from somewhat under 16,000*l.* in 1850 to above 18,000*l.* in 1854, and I believe it has been still more largely increased since that date; and every item of increased expenditure is one in which the working classes have the most direct interest. The present income is inadequate for the real wants of those who have a right to look to the government to endeavour to improve, as far as practicable, their interests; I mean, to benefit the labouring classes. If this were properly explained to them, I cannot think that they would grudge a small increase of taxation, which, with the present means of earning a livelihood, they could well afford; and if they felt it onerous they could remove the burthen by a very small addition of that labour which they are so well able to afford, and which every planter would be only too happy to purchase.

The middle classes have the game in their own hands, if they will call upon those members whom they may send to represent their interests in the legislature to take the subject into their earliest and gravest consideration, and require them to devise such a scheme of taxation as may best be raised by internal assessments from every person who has the means at his command to enable him to contribute to the general welfare of the whole community. I have very little doubt but they would raise such an amount of revenue from direct sources as would enable them to abolish all customs duties, encourage trade free from taxation from all parts of the world, and greatly benefit every interest throughout the colony.

I have trespassed longer than I had intended. I will not, therefore, enter into any detail as to the precise mode of taxation which I would suggest; it must be, however, of a nature which would oblige all classes to contribute, and this, I think, would be done without imposing burthens on any man which he was not at the present moment well able to bear; and the tax-payer would not be inclined, I think, to find fault, after a very little experience, with a new system which would enable the government to raise a revenue, not only sufficient for its immediate wants, but calculated to stimulate habits of industry, and to encourage the education of the rising generation, without which I see little chance for any future amelioration of the working classes in Grenada.

I am, Sir, your most obedient servant,

London, February 16, 1858. THOMSON HANKEY.

Enclosure 3 in No. 14.

Enclosure 3 in No. 14.

Immigration Office, Grenada,
March 6, 1858.

SIR,

IN conformity with the Immigration Act, I beg leave to lay before your Excellency this my first general report on the Indian immigrants located in this island, and although their recent arrival and the paucity of their numbers can present but little matter for observation or comment, still, from the progress they have made and are making, some conclusions may be drawn as to their probable influence on the future destinies of the colony.

2. The first and only shipment as yet made to this island was received by the ship "Maidstone," Escott Commander, from Calcutta, on the 1st of May last, and consisted of 203 male and 52 female adults, 15 boys and 6 girls (children), and 2 male and 5 female infants, in all 283 souls, of which 34 males and 12 females, one boy and two girls and 1 female infant, making a total of 50, have died, leaving 169 male and 40 female adults, 14 boys, 4 girls, 2 male and 4 female infants, in all 233 souls, still in the island.

3. The particulars are specified in three tabulated returns hereunto annexed, No. 1 giving the names of the deceased, their ages, and the dates and causes of death; No. 2 showing the estates on which the deceased were located, the number originally placed there, and the number now remaining; and No. 3 detailing the number first applied for, the number arrived and distributed, and the balance due, the additional number applied for since the last distribution, and the total now required, all up to the 31st December last, since which a few new applications have come in, not taken notice of in these returns.

No. 1. not printed. No. 2. No. 3.

4. With respect to No. 1, your Excellency will notice that the cases were principally dysentery, diarrhœa, fever, and debility. The mortality was confined chiefly to those who were landed in a weak and emaciated state, many of whom never recovered to reimburse the estates any portion of the advances made on their behalf. Some died at the depôt before distribution, some at the colony hospital after distribution, and some immediately on arrival at their destination. Other complaints have occurred, from which the individuals soon recovered; but no epidemic has broken out amongst them; and the majority have enjoyed good health, the prevailing sickness having arisen from seasoning fevers, chigoes, ulcers, &c., which now form the few remaining cases in hospital.

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5. On reference to No. 2, it will appear that the casualties which have occurred on the several estates are as foliow:

			Lost.		Remain.
Grand Bacolet had	25	-	7	-	18
Hope „	21	-	2	-	19
Crochin „	13	-	2	-	11
Carriere „	13	-	2	-	11
Conference „	12	-	2	-	10
Belmont „	13	-	4	-	9
Mount Reuil „	17	-	2	-	13
Chambaud „	14	-	3	-	11
Plain „	15	-	2	-	13
Morne Perdue „	13	-	1	-	12
La Fortune „	13	-	1	-	12
Snell Hall „	19	-	4	-	15
River Sallee „	12	-	2	-	10
Marli „	16	-	2	-	14
Mt William „	13	-	2	-	11
Du Quesne „	13	-	1	-	12
Samaritan „	13	-	1	-	12
Total -	276		44		232
Add deaths in depôt previous to distribution - „	6	-	6	-	—
Add 1 female with Interpreter Nazareth - - „	1	-	—	-	1
Grand total „	283	-	50	-	233

6. The proportion of deaths to the total number imported (50 out of 283) is equal to 17·66 per cent.; that of the sexes is, amongst the male, of adults 16·74 per cent., and female 23 per cent.; but a fair comparison can scarcely be made, inasmuch as there were so few women sent out, and those not of the best character.

7. They all died without leaving any property, save Bho-hey-derr, who died in the colony hospital leaving a gold finger ring, which he requested should be delivered to Bhurdoole, his son-in-law, on Samaritan estate, and which has accordingly been done, and Mr. Bothelho, one of the interpreters, who died on the 30th December last, leaving some wearing apparel valued at four pounds, and a quarter's salary due to him, whose affairs have been already particularly reported upon.

8. I am happy to state that their employers have paid every care and attention to their immigrants, supplied them on their arrival with clothing, and food for a month gratis, until they could earn wages, when they were at once put on the same footing as the native labourer with regard to the pay of the class in which they were able to work. The orphans, who were distributed amongst the rest, were tenderly looked after by the manager's family, and treated as one of the household. In sickness they were attended by the doctor and the hospital nurse, and medicine and nourishment supplied, and in difficult cases, when, from the paucity of medical practitioners, professional advice could not be readily obtained, the parties were sent to the colony hospital in St. George's, and the expenses defrayed by the estate.

9. Of the survivors it is also gratifying to report that they are doing well. Their employers are quite satisfied with them, and they with their employers. They all do field labour, and are considered good hands at weeding and cutting; and, although they cannot do as much as the native labourer, they perform their work much neater, and make up in quality what they lack in quantity. Very few have been able to turn out with the first class in "holing;" those who do obtain their full wages (10*d.* per day); the others are paid 8*d.* and 6*d.*, according to the class to which they belong; and all get 3*d.* for extra hours during crop, so that they can save money, and several allow a portion of their wages to remain in the hands of the managers. None of them have taken lands to cultivate as gardens on their own account, but they continue to be supplied on the estates with rice, fish, &c. at cost price, going to market occasionally to procure other things that they may require. Now that crop has commenced, they are found very useful in and about the works, feeding the mill, and carrying megass, &c., and they are delighted with the allowance of sweets, and the activity and stirring operations of the season, all appearing cheerful and happy.

10. There have been a few complaints for petty thefts and disorderly conduct; but only three cases were of magnitude enough to be adjudicated upon, namely, one on Snell Hall Estate against Lall Mahomed, for disobedience of orders and assault on his countrymen, and two on Grand Bacolet Estate, against Hausen Baccas and Jusbeer, for drunkenness and stealing poultry, in all which the parties were found guilty, and sentenced to one month's imprisonment with hard labor.

12. Upon the whole then it appears that the Coolie is likely to become a valuable addition to our peasantry, and a useful class of labourers to maintain the cultivation of the staple products, and thus eventually be made a benefit to the community at large; and while immigration may serve to stimulate

the native labourer to the exercise of greater industry, by the healthy competition it will excite, it will also appropriately fill the void that will be created when the native population will inevitably rise to a higher grade in society.

13. It will have struck your Excellency's notice, and it is apparent to every observant mind, that the emancipated class are reluctant to continue the avocations with which so many bitter associations are connected, and are fast seceding from labour on the sugar estates. They all, more or less, aspire to become "independent proprietors," and embrace every opportunity to purchase bits of freehold, in order to sever themselves from their connection with former masters. To these little homesteads they are panting to retire, to cultivate their own lands, and come out only occasionally to toil on the estates as necessity may compel or caprice dictate. They look with no jealous eye upon the Coolies; on the contrary, they hail his arrival with joy, and seem to regard him as the instrument destined eventually to release them from the necessity of daily manual labour.

14. The native labourer, whose growing independence, manifested in the "small patches of canes and little wooden mills here and there dotting the chequered plain around," the significance of which was so pointedly alluded to in the last Despatch of your Excellency's predecessor, has risen a step higher, and we now see him becoming the lessee of large sugar plantations regularly established, with all the usual appliances. As witness, for example, the lessee of Hope Vale Estate, containing 492 acres, with water mill and works complete; the lessee of Perseverance Estate, containing 522 acres, with steam engine and other apparatus complete; and the lessee of Mount Hardman, formerly a sugar estate, and lately a cattle farm, with 400 acres of pasture and wood, soon to be revived into its former state of flourishing luxuriance. True, these were abandoned properties belonging to absent and needy proprietors, who had not the means of keeping up the cultivation, and were glad to concede them on mere nominal terms; but in the course of time the properties will improve without any cost to the owners, while they furnish the means of profitable employment to and engage the enterprise of an aspiring class. It is cases like these that the more intelligent labourer is laying himself out for; and as he can manage more economically than his educated landlord, he spends less, and saves more; and when he cannot find a friend to assist him with pecuniary advances, he procures the physical help of his fellow labourers, and at harvest either shares the produce or remunerates them from the proceeds of the sale. Even the "old established hands" who find it difficult to struggle against the tide, are now emulating the despised "wooden mills," and gladly take the canes of their own labourers and neighbouring petty settlers, and manufacture them on the share system, in order to make up something like a return of produce on their ancient patrimony.

15. Such then, it appears, is the present state of circumstances affecting the staple product of the island, and bearing on the question of immigration to these shores. What may be the ulterior consequences, in the event of the landed interest becoming diffused and scattered into a thousand petty tenures, held by an uneducated or half-educated proprietary body, (and in a country where landed property is at a discount, and prædial labour at a premium, such a result is not difficult to imagine,) or how those consequences might be modified by a timely ingress of labouring hands in sufficient numbers to be felt is not for me here to predicate, but I feel it my duty to submit to your Excellency the all but universal opinion that, next to the African labourer, the Coolie immigrant is the best adapted to the climate and the wants of the country, and that unless immediate accession in sufficient numbers be made to our labouring population, in order to supply the fast failing resources of the agricultural interest, the progress of the country will, at no distant period, be sensibly impeded, and her happiness and prosperity seriously affected.

I have, &c.

C. H. Kortright, Esq.,
Lieut.-Governor.

(Signed) SAML. COCKBURN,
Immigration Agent.

Enclosure 4 in No. 14.

NUMERICAL RETURN of PRISONERS for the Year 1857 in the ISLAND of GRENADA, showing the Nature of Offences, &c.

Island.	Offences against the Person.										Offences against Property.												Total Number of Prisoners.
	Murder.	Sodomy or Attempt to commit the Offence.	Rape.	Concealing Birth of a Child.	Manslaughter.	Shooting with Intent to Kill.	Assault with Intent to do bodily Harm.	Cutting and Wounding.	Assaults.		Arson. Setting fire to		Perjury.	Burglary and Theft.	Forgery.	Uttering forged Cheques.	Obtaining Goods under false Pretences.	Larceny and Theft.	Receiving stolen Property.	Highway Robbery.	Stealing.	Misdemeanors and other Offences.	
									Aggravated.	Common.	Buildings.	Sugar Canes.											
Grenada - - {	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	See	1	1	27	8	39 Sentenced 1856.
	I	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	5	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	Stealing.	1	1	40	93	146 Sentenced 1857.
																							185

RETURN of PRISONERS for the Year 1857 in the ISLAND of GRENADA, showing the Amount of Imprisonment awarded or commuted, and whether with or without Hard Labour.

Island.	N.B.—Insert in the Columns below the Terms of Imprisonment.																		Total Number of Prisoners.	Remarks.
	4 Years.		3 Years.		2 Years.		1 Year.		8 Months.		6 Months.		4 Months.		3 Months.		Under 3 Months.			
	With Hard Labour.	Without Hard Labour.	With Hard Labour.	Without Hard Labour.	With Hard Labour.	Without Hard Labour.	With Hard Labour.	Without Hard Labour.	With Hard Labour.	Without Hard Labour.	With Hard Labour.	Without Hard Labour.	With Hard Labour.	Without Hard Labour.	With Hard Labour.	Without Hard Labour.	With Hard Labour.	Without Hard Labour.		
Grenada - {	—	—	—	—	8	—	14	—	1	—	2	—	—	—	1	—	10	3	34 } 185	
	—	—	2	—	2	—	8	—	2	—	1	—	—	—	12	2	48	69	146 }	

ABSTRACT of PRISONERS under Sentence of Imprisonment in the ISLAND of GRENADA for the Year 1857.

Island.	Year.	Remarks.
Grenada -	1857	Of these 39 were in Gaol on the 1st January 1857, continuing their Imprisonment from the year preceding.

HENRY SHARPE, Provost Marshal.

RETURN of the NUMBER of CIVIL CASES decided by the several Courts and by Magistrates in the ISLAND of GRENADA for the Year 1857.

Island.	Above £500.	Under £500 and above £10.	Under £10.	By Courts.	By Magistrates.	Total Number of Cases decided.	No. of Debtors imprisoned in 1857.	Appeals from Magisterial Adjudication.			Remarks.
								No. of Judgments affirmed.	No. of Judgments reversed.	Total Number of Cases decided.	
Grenada - - -	2	54	277	333	267	600	9	9	2	11	

WM. MITCHEL, Colonial Secretary.

No. 2.

RETURN of INDIAN IMMIGRANTS at GRENADA, showing the Number originally located on each Estate, the Deaths that have occurred, and the Number remaining up to 31st December 1857.

ESTATES.	Adult		Children.		Infants.		TOTAL.
	Men.	Women.	Boys.	Girls.	Male.	Female.	
1. Grand Bacolet	16	5	1	—	1	2	25
Died	4	2	—	—	—	1	7
Remain	12	3	1	—	1	1	18
2. Hope	17	2	1	1	—	—	21
Died	1	1	—	—	—	—	2
Remain	16	1	1	1	—	—	19
3. Crochue	10	2	1	—	—	—	13
Died	1	1	—	—	—	—	2
Remain	9	1	1	—	—	—	11
4. Carriere	10	2	1	—	—	—	13
Died	2	—	—	—	—	—	2
Remain	8	2	1	—	—	—	11
5. Conference	8	2	2	—	—	—	12
Died	1	1	—	—	—	—	2
Remain	7	1	2	—	—	—	10
6. Belmont	10	2	—	1	—	—	13
Died	3	1	—	—	—	—	4
Remain	7	1	—	1	—	—	9
7. Mount Rose	17	3	—	—	—	1	21
Died	1	1	—	—	—	—	2
Remain	16	2	—	—	—	1	19
8. Mount Renil	11	3	3	—	—	—	17
Died	3	—	1	—	—	—	4
Remain	8	3	2	—	—	—	13
9. Chambord	10	3	—	1	—	—	14
Died	1	1	—	1	—	—	3
Remain	9	2	—	—	—	—	11
10. Plain	10	3	2	—	—	—	15
Died	2	—	—	—	—	—	2
Remain	8	3	2	—	—	—	13
11. Mornefendue	10	3	—	—	—	—	13
Died	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Remain	9	3	—	—	—	—	12

GRENADA.

No. 2.—Return of Indian Immigrants at Grenada, showing the Number originally located on each Estate, &c.—*continued.*

ESTATES.	Adults.		Children.		Infants.		TOTAL.
	Men.	Women.	Boys.	Girls.	Males.	Females.	
12. Lafortune	10	2	—	1	—	—	13
Died	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Remain	9	2	—	1	—	—	12
13. Snell Hall	10	4	2	1	1	1	19
Died	2	1	—	1	—	—	4
Remain	8	3	2	—	1	1	15
14. River Sallee	10	1	—	1	—	—	12
Died	1	1	—	—	—	—	2
Remain	9	—	—	1	—	—	10
15. Marli	10	3	2	—	—	1	16
Died	2	—	—	—	—	—	2
Remain	8	3	2	—	—	1	14
16. Mount William	10	3	—	—	—	—	13
Died	2	—	—	—	—	—	2
Remain	8	3	—	—	—	—	11
17. Duquesne	10	3	—	—	—	—	13
Died	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Remain	9	3	—	—	—	—	12
18. Samaritan	10	3	—	—	—	—	13
Died	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Remain	9	3	—	—	—	—	12
With the Interpreter, A. de Nazareth	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Grand Total remaining in the Island	169	40	14	4	2	4	233
Add Total Deaths, as per Return No. 1.	34	12	1	2	—	1	50
Total originally imported, per Maidstone, on the 1st day of May 1857	203	52	15	6	2	5	283

I have, &c.

Grenada, 31 December 1857.

(Signed) SAML. COCKBURN,
Immigration Agent.

No. 3.—RETURN OF APPLICATIONS for IMMIGRANTS since last Return, embracing the Half Year from 1st July to 31st December 1857.

Number of Estates.	No. of Applications.	Date.	Estates.	Proprietors and Mortgagees, &c.	Lessees.	Agents applying.	Parish.	Number applied for.	Number delivered.	No. remaining due on last Distribution.	No. shut out on last Occasion.	New Applications.	Total now required.	Remarks.
49	25	1857		Amount brought over from last return.				772	276	153	248	111	512	
1	26	July 16	Mount Rich	Mrs. McInnes, and Major Graham.	None	Wm. Swan	St. Patrick	20	—	—	—	20	20	
1	27	„ 17	Isle Rhonde	Jno. B. Belfon	„	J. B. Belfon	„	10	—	—	—	10	10	
—	28	October 19	Belmont	Sir. R. Houstown	„	C. Alexander	„	30	—	—	—	30	30	
—	—	„	Mount Rewil	C. Alexander	„	„	„	20	—	—	—	20	20	The Estates not numbered in the first column have already been served, and this is a second application in addition to what they have already had.
—	—	„	River Sallee	Est. Geo. Paterson	C. Alexander.	„	„	30	—	—	—	30	30	
—	29	„ 20	Snell Hall	Chauncey	None	Tho. Alexander for Hall Alexander	„	30	—	—	—	30	30	
—	—	„	La Fortune	„	„		„	25	—	—	—	25	25	
—	—	„	Mount William	„	„		„	20	—	—	—	25	25	
—	—	„	Duquesne	„	„		„	15	—	—	—	15	15	
—	—	„	Samaritan	„	„		„	15	—	—	—	15	15	
—	30	November 6	Mount Rose	J. Campbell, sen., & Co.	„	G. Merryweather	„	30	—	—	—	30	30	
1	31	„ 16	Sagesse	Thomson Hankey & Co.	„	J. Langdon	St. David	30	—	—	—	30	30	
52	31						Total	1047	276	153	248	386	787	

Grenada, 31st December 1857.

S. COCKBURN,
Immigration Agent.

GRENADA.

Consolidated from RETURN No. 2. of INDIAN IMMIGRANTS for the Year ending 31st December 1857.

TABLE A.

Number landed.							Number died before Distribution.							Number distributed.						
Adults.		Children.		Infants.		Total.	Adults.		Children.		Infants.		Total.	Adults.		Children.		Infants.		Total.
Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.		Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.		Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	
203	52	15	6	2	5	283	4	2	—	—	—	—	6	199	50	15	6	2	5	277

TABLE B.

Name of District.	No. of Estates.	Number located in Parishes.							Deaths.	Remaining in District.						
		Adults.		Children.		Infants.		Total.		Adults.		Children.		Infants.		Total.
		Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.			Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	
St. Patrick - -	13	138	36	9	5	1	3	192	29	117	31	8	3	1	3	163
St. Andrew - -	5	61	13	6	1	1	2	84	15	52	8	6	1	1	1	69
Total - -	—	199	49	15	6	2	5	276	44	169	39	14	4	2	4	232
Interpreter's Wife -	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Grand Total -	—	199	50	15	6	2	5	277	44	169	40	14	14	2	4	233

TOBAGO.

No. 15.

COPY of DESPATCH from Governor HINCKS to the Right Honourable Sir E. B. LYTTON, Bart.

(No. 31.)

Windward Islands, Barbadoes, July 24, 1858.

SIR, (Received August 16, 1858.)

I HAVE the honour to transmit the copy of a despatch from the Lieutenant Governor of Tobago, being his report on the accompanying Blue Book for 1857.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. Sir E. B. Lytton, Bart. (Signed) F. HINCKS.
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure in No. 15.

REPORT from Lieut.-Governor EYRE to Governor HINCKS.

(No. 43.)

SIR, Government House, Tobago, June 10, 1858.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Excellency the Tobago Blue Book for 1857 in duplicate, to which is annexed an abstract of its principal contents, and the annual report of the inspector of prisons for this island.

Abstract Returns. Sub-Encl. 1.

2. In reporting upon the Blue Book for the last year, it affords me much satisfaction to be able to speak favourably of the financial state and general prospects of the colony.

Finance.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
3. On the 1st January there remained in the public treasury a balance of				1,864	2	0
The receipts during the year consisted of,—						
Arrears of taxes for 1855	53	5	7			
„ „ 1856	2,618	5	0			
Revenue of 1857	9,498	4	6			
				12,169	15	1
Total				14,033	17	1
The expenditure during the year, including balance of £2,463 18 5 due for the preceding year, amounted to				11,722	8	6½
leaving a balance in cash of				2,311	8	6½
together with uncollected revenue of about 276*l.* 0*s.* 0*d.*, to meet the remaining liabilities of 1857 amounting to	1,125	4	5½			
and of former years	623	14	3			
				1,748	18	8½
leaving a clear balance of				562	9	10
to which, if the amount paid in advance for the redemption of treasury bills due only in 1858–1859, viz.				1,376	0	0
be added, there will appear a real balance on the transactions of the year of				1,938	9	10

4. By the payment in anticipation of the treasury bills due only in 1858–1859, a saving of 87*l.* 17*s.* 5*d.* was effected, and of this total amount of treasury debentures 2,752*l.* issued in 1856 to sustain the credit of the colony there remained at the close of the year only a balance of 676*l.* which has since been further reduced

TOBAGO.

5. Of the original amount of the loan, 20,000*l.*, granted by the Imperial Government in 1849, there remained due to the Lords of the Treasury on the 31st December 1857 a balance of 10,000*l.* payable in ten annual instalments of 1,000*l.*, with interest at 3*l.* 5*s.* per centum per annum. Of the 10,000*l.* so due there is owing—

	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
by private borrowers - - - -	5,968	3	11			
by the colony - - - -	2,664	0	0			
Total - -				8,632	3	11

payable in nine annual instalments, and there remains—

in cash - - - - -	159	8	11			
in treasury warrants - - -	997	2	3			
at debit of charges account - -	211	4	11			
				1,367	16	1
Total - -				10,000	0	0

6. The following statement of the island finances at present compared with their condition at the end of 1855 will be found to exhibit marked evidence of progress and improvement:

Estimated state on 31st December 1857.	£	*s.*	*d.*
Balance of hurricane loan	9,002	17	9
Balance of treasury debt	676	0	0
Debt in 1857 -	9,678	17	9

Estimated state on 31st December 1855.	£	*s.*	*d.*
Balance of hurricane loan	11,791	12	10
Local debts of the colony as estimated - -	7,171	4	3½
Debt in 1855 - -	18,962	17	1½

After payment of all liabilities to date, the accounts show a clear balance of 562*l.* 9*s.* 10*d.* in the treasury on the 31st December 1857.

	£	*s.*	*d.*
The debt on 31st December 1855 was - -	18,962	17	1½
Deduct the debt on 31st December 1857 - -	9,678	17	9
	9,283	19	4½
and add the cash balance - - -	562	9	10
	9,846	9	2½

and it will be apparent that the financial state of the colony has improved by the sum of 9,846*l.* 9*s.* 2½*d.* within the last two years.

An estimate made of the liabilities and presumed assets of the colony of Tobago for the quarter ending the 31st December 1855 showed that on the 30th September 1855 the known liabilities of the colony for	£	*s.*	*d.*
warrants in circulation for salaries unpaid and other debt amounted to -	6,413	9	3
To meet these liabilities the assets were, cash in treasury - -	295	12	11½
leaving a deficiency to meet on the 31st December 1855 of -	6,117	16	3½
The estimated liabilities of the quarter to end 31st December 1855 were - - - - - -	3,133	8	0
making the gross liabilities to 31st December 1855 - -	9,251	4	3½
to meet which the estimated revenue was only - - -	2,080	0	0
showing an estimated balance against the colony on 31st December 1855 amounting to - - - - -	7,171	4	3½

exclusive of the amount due to the Lords of the Treasury in respect of the hurricane loan.

Sub-Encl. 2. 7. I beg to append to this statement a copy of a financial report for 1857, prepared at my request by the members of the executive committee of government, and which was laid before the Elective Legislative Assembly at the opening of the session. Also the returns of revenue and expenditure, compiled by the treasurer according to the tabular form prescribed by the rules and regulations for Her Majesty's colonial service.

Sub-Encls. 3 and 4.

Imports and Exports.

Sub-Encl. 5. 8. Annexed is a return of the total valuation of the imports and exports of the colony in the years 1856 and 1857, to which is appended a statement of the quantities of sugar,

Sub-Encl. 6. rum, and molasses exported from the year 1827 to the year 1857, both inclusive.

9. There appears to have been but little difference in the estimated value of imports and exports for 1857, as compared with the preceding year; but neither of those returns show the real value of the produce shipped, the declaration of the shippers being in every case considerably lower than the rate current in the local market.

10. The quantity of sugar exported in 1857 was less than the shipments of 1856 by 19,051 cwts., owing to the loss of canes caused by the long duration of a very dry season in that year; but, notwithstanding that drawback, the crop was an average one compared with the preceding ten years. The crop now being taken off is expected at least to equal that of 1856.

Taxation.

11. For many years prior to my arrival in this island, it had been the invariable practice, often remonstrated against, but ever persisted in, to defer the consideration of the annual tax bill until towards the close of the year for the service of which the revenue to be raised was required.

12. The consequence, as might be expected, was a confusion of accounts, and often great difficulty and delay in satisfying the just claims of the public creditor.

13. On assuming the government I found that the session of the legislature had once more been allowed to expire without passing an Act granting to Her Majesty the necessary rates and taxes in aid of the ordinary revenue for the year; and so impressed was I with the necessity and expediency of at once remedying the evils caused by this delay, that I determined on convoking a special session for the purpose.

14. In my address to the Legislative Council and Elective Legislative Assembly I represented the inconvenience occasioned by the unnecessary delay in passing the annual tax bill. I urged upon their consideration that it was far from prudent that the public should incur debt before providing means for its liquidation; and that the passing of any Act intended to have a retroactive effect was highly objectionable in principle, and most impolitic in regard to financial measures, or any Act by which provision was to be made for the public expenditure.

15. To this appeal both houses cordially responded, acknowledging the propriety of having convened a special session, and concurring in the opinion that the necessary financial measures should be passed in time to permit their coming into operation at an early period of the year for the service of which the revenue was intended.

16. The Acts for raising a supply in aid of the revenue of 1857, and for appropriating the same, were duly passed; and before the close of the year I had the satisfaction of accomplishing my chief object, of providing in advance for the revenue and expenditure of the following year, 1858.

17. By those Acts a material change has been effected both in the amount of taxation and in the mode of raising and collecting the revenue.

18. In lieu of the tax of four shillings an acre upon cultivated land, and of sixpence upon uncultivated land, and the house tax, an assessment is now levied upon property based on the valuation roll prepared by commissioners duly appointed under the Act Vict. 19. cap. 14., entitled "An Act for the valuation of lands, tenements, and hereditaments in Tobago."

19. This Act has been passed for a period of five years, and is intended to serve as a basis for taxation and for the purposes of franchise.

20. The property tax or rate of assessment was in the Act for 1857 at 15 per cent. on the annual value of sugar estates and 7½ per cent. on all other properties in the roll.

21. It was subsequently considered that one uniform rate of assessment would be more in conformity to the spirit and intent of the property tax; and in the Act for 1858 it has been made seven and a half per cent. upon all descriptions of property. It is more easily collected than the land tax, and is not open to the many objections made against the latter.

22. Annexed to this report is an abstract of the valuation roll, showing the number of properties, their estimated annual value, and their relative taxation. The sugar producing estates have unquestionably been undervalued, and until this can be remedied by a revision of the valuation roll, and so long as one uniform rate of assessment is levied upon all, this description of property cannot be made to bear its proper proportion of the property tax, under which it now contributes one third to one half less than under the former land tax. Sub-Encl. 7.

23. By those Acts considerable relief has been also afforded by the abolition of many obnoxious personal taxes on trades and professions, such as merchants and shopkeepers, barristers, notaries, medical practitioners, attornies, managers, and engineers. The taxes

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upon carriages, carts, and droghers have been also omitted; and greater facilities have been afforded to the tax-payers by the appointment of sub-collectors of taxes in the out-districts of the island, the efficiency of which system is established by the fact that on the 31st day of December 1856 there remained 2,758*l.* 4*s.* 5*d.* arrears of uncollected revenue, whilst at the same date in 1857 there was only an estimated balance of about 276*l.* of arrears then uncollected.

Public Works.

24. The following is a statement of the expenditure incurred in 1857 on account of the repair and maintenance of public buildings, the sum voted by the legislature for these purposes being 500*l.* sterling.

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Repairs of government house	280	1	2½
Do. at treasury	4	14	10
Do. at convict prison	12	10	6
Do. at Scarborough gaol	7	7	1
	304	13	7½

25. Contracts have been entered into for the thorough repair of the building styled the court-house in the town of Scarborough, at a cost of 1,150*l.* sterling, and measures have been taken to convert the military hospital at Fort King George into a common gaol, which will be a great improvement, the gaol at Scarborough having been long condemned as unfit and insufficient as a prison.

Roads.

26. The island is divided into seven road districts, to each of which "waywardens" are appointed annually by the justices of the court of Queen's Bench. The "waywardens" so appointed are subject to a penalty of ten pounds in case of refusal or neglect of duty, recoverable by information in a court of record.

27. All male inhabitants between the ages of 16 and 50 are bound to serve and perform "work and labour on the public roads and streets, either in his own proper "person or by substitute," for which he is paid sixpence for every day's labour so given, under a penalty of 4*s.* for every day's neglect or refusal to perform such labour during the time it shall be so required of him.

28. The system has been in operation for eight years, but is generally acknowledged to be deficient in many respects, the compulsory labour so given being as in all such cases irregular and inefficient. The number of persons so employed in the repair of the public roads seldom exceeds 3,000, out of a population estimated at 15,679, of which about 4,000 may be reckoned as able-bodied males, liable under the road act, and the average number of actual day's labour, if it can possibly be so called, bestowed on the roads, may be computed at 13,500 in the course of twelve months, or 4½ days per man.

29. The public roads are, however, notwithstanding these drawbacks, tolerably well kept. In the dry season they may be called good, but during the heavy rains many of them are almost impracticable. They are in general well traced, but are by far too numerous for the labour available for their repair and maintenance. One real advantage of the existing system of compulsory statute labour must not be overlooked, and it is that it affords a means of obtaining the labour necessary for the repair of the roads either by personal service or by substitute for a comparatively small money payment; whereas under a system of hired labour for a higher remuneration it is doubtful if labour could at all be procured.

Sub-Encl. 8. Annexed is a return of the annual cost of the repair of the public roads, which does not exceed 600*l.* sterling.

Legislation.

30. The attention of the legislature during the last year was principally directed to measures of finance, in regard to which a material improvement has been effected in respect to the mode of raising the revenue, and by providing in advance for the expenditure to be incurred during the next ensuing year. The importance of this reform cannot be over estimated.

31. The accounts of the colony had for many years previously been in a state of confusion, and the public finances in a state of embarassment, from which they are now happily relieved.

Agriculture.

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32. Many causes combine to render it difficult to obtain reliable information in regard to the cost of cane culture and the manufacture of sugar.

33. Differences of soil, the want of continuous labour, the varied nature of the motive power employed in the manufactory, and the use of agricultural implements, such as the plough, all tend by their operation to make general statements under this head to a certain extent fallacious. So great indeed is the diversity arising from one or more of these causes combined, that in a communication on this subject addressed to me by one of the most experienced planters in the island, he remarks, "I have made a crop of "100 hds. as cheap as one of 50 hds., viz. as regards cutting, grinding, and manu- "facturing."

34. With a full knowledge of all these difficulties, I have endeavoured to collect the best information on matters of such interest; and I have inserted in the appendix to this report copies of three statistical returns furnished on my solicitation by gentlemen owners of considerable property, and known as most experienced practical planters. Sub-Encls. 9, 10, and 11.

35. An analysis of return A. shows the estimated cost of growing and manufacturing the produce of an acre of canes, including cartage, packages, &c., &c., to be 8*l.* 7*s.* sterling, giving a return of one and a half hogsheads, or an average of 2,250 cwts. of sugar, at a cost of 7*s.* 5¼*d.* per cwt., or only 6*s.* 7¾*d.* where the plough is used in cane cultivation.

36. Assuming the cost of manufacture to be the same in respect to return B., the result will be the same within a trifle. The cost of cultivation, according to return C., being estimated at one half, and assuming the cost of manufacture and the yield to be the same, the first cost of one cwt. of sugar would be reduced to 4*s.* 10*d.*

37. It will be observed that these calculations are based on the assumption that an acre of land produces only one hogshead and a half of sugar, and that each hogshead is taken to be 1,500 cwt. It is well known, however, that in many instances the proportion of sugar obtained from an acre of well-cultivated canes is much greater and the net weight of a hogshead of sugar considerably more than the estimate here given, and that consequently the original cost of production in such cases is proportionally less. There may certainly be other charges, such as interest on capital, replacement of stock, and maintenance of works, &c. &c., which ought to be taken into consideration; but no note has been taken of the value of the molasses and rum, which form no inconsiderable parts of an estate's crop, sufficient indeed sometimes to defray the entire current expenditure of the property for the cultivation and manufacture of the whole crop.

38. The Blue Book for 1855 I perceive was accompanied by returns of the estimated cost of sugar making, and 12*s.* 1½*d.* per cwt. is there stated as the actual cost of production; but this includes salaries of attornies, managers, overseers, &c. &c., and charges of every description, such as taxes, stock, &c.

39. The estimate I have here given has been made by practical planters residing on and managing their own estates, and is therefore free from the burden of paying attornies and other superfluous charges; but perhaps, making every allowance, and taking a just medium, I think that 8*s.* to 10*s.* per cwt. may be taken as the fair average cost under all circumstances, to which 20*s.* may be added for duty, freight, and other charges attending the sale of the produce in the British market, making the total cost of one cwt. of sugar at time of sale 28*s.* to 30*s.* sterling.

40. The plough has been long in use in this island, with great advantage in the preparation of cane land, but the hoe is more generally employed, owing to the hilly nature of the country. The cost of preparing an acre of land with the plough is estimated at about 20*s.* less than when the hoe is used.

41. The metairie system, or the culture and manufacture of canes for a share of the produce, prevails to a great extent in this island.

42. It was first resorted to some three or four years ago, as a means of arresting the total ruin of many estates whose proprietors were discouraged by the unremunerative prices in the home market, and who had resolved on the abandonment of their properties rather than incur further losses. By its adoption the partial cultivation of the estates was maintained, and the system has now become too deeply identified with the interests of the labourers to be set aside by those who readily availed themselves of its aid in the time of their embarrassment, but who would now desire to monopolize all the advantages resulting from the improved state of the country and the encouraging aspect of the market for colonial produce.

43. Adopted as it was, at a critical period, as a last resort, by parties neither of whom understood its real principle, metairie cultivation has never yet assumed a fixed and

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determined character as a system. In no case is it limited so as to separate the agricultural operation from the process of manufacture; they are invariably combined, and the advantage which would naturally result from a proper division of labour is invariably set at nought. In like manner there is no settled uniform plan of operations; the terms and conditions of contracts or agreements made with managers differ in details upon many estates, and it consequently has as yet been found difficult to govern their obligations by any recognized rule or practice. It has been suggested that metayer cultivation should be so far regulated by legislation that in the absence of any specific contract a line should be drawn between the proprietor, cultivator, and manufacturer, and that in the division of produce a distinct portion should be set apart for the manufacturer.

44. In two recent instances, on actions for breach of metairie contracts, his honour the chief justice decided that the relations between the owner of the estate and the metayer were that of landlord and tenant. I annex a short summary of the two cases, which will also serve to show the general tenour and nature of metairie contracts, and their mode of operation.

Sub-Encl. 12.

45. It is very common to hear cultivation by metairie decried and condemned as being calculated to arrest all attempts at improvement in tropical agriculture, and no doubt this is true to a very considerable extent. It cannot be denied that through the want of system and control there is a great waste of labour which had it been bestowed under proper direction of an intelligent and experienced planter might have been rendered far more productive, and that the same amount of organized hired labour would have added more to the produce of the country.

46. On the other hand, metairie cultivation has to a certain extent been profitable to Tobago. Many estates were saved by its adoption from utter abandonment, and many others, which without it would even now be unproductive, are profitably worked entirely on this system.

47. It affords a revenue to noncapitalist proprietors; it tends to establish a useful middle class of yeomanry; and it retains for the use of the peasantry a larger share of the soil; and labour produce than the mere pittance of plantation wages. To these may be added also, the not-unimportant consideration that the possession of such a direct interest in the soil, being in fact small farmers with growing crops on the ground, and holding, as most of them do, small freeholds of their own, the metayers must naturally desire to maintain the laws made for the protection of their property, and of the general peace and tranquillity of the country, with the prosperity of which their individual interest have become so identified.

48. In a colony such as this, where the labouring class, consisting entirely of emancipated negroes, so far outnumbers other classes of the community, and where, the military having been withdrawn, there exists no means of suppressing riot or disorder, save a few police constables, I am disposed to attach an importance to the prevalence of the metairie system, as conducive to internal security, which appears to have been altogether overlooked or disregarded hitherto.

49. The stake thus possessed by the more industrious of the labouring class is not confined to one locality or to a few estates. In 1855 only thirteen estates were known to be partially cultivated on the metairie system. In 1857 there was scarce an estate on which the share system had not been introduced to a greater or less extent, many of them, even some of the larger, being entirely worked by metayers.

50. One estate, consisting of 600 acres of land, is cultivated solely by metayers, making a crop last year of 130 hogsheads, and now taking off a crop expected to reach 180 hogsheads, of which the metayers received one-half, with a small proportion of the rum made during the crop. One man has already made his 17 hogsheads of sugar, and others have made ten, five, and under.

51. So generally, indeed, has this system become established, that, although I have not been able to procure exact information as to all the estates, I feel assured that at least one third of the whole island crop is the product of metairie industry.

52. There were 60 sugar estates in active operation in 1857. Of these, 36 were owned by resident and 24 by absentee proprietors. With two exceptions, of estates which are leased, all the properties of the resident proprietors are conducted under their own immediate direction or by managers under them. Seven of the estates belonging to absentees are cultivated under lease, the remaining 17 being worked under the charge of attornies for the benefit of the absent owners.

53. In 1855, of 57 estates making sugar, 45 belonged to absentees, showing that in the space of two years no less than 21 properties have been transferred from absentee to resident owners, and that three additional estates have been since brought into cane cultivation.

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54. Of the 60 sugar estates the motive power used in the manufacture may be classed as follows:

Wind mills	10
Water mills	21
Steam do.	18
Steam and wind	4
Steam and water	1
Cattle mills	6
	60

55. The rate of wages paid to day labourers is not sufficient to encourage them to bestow their continuous labour in estate work; the inducements held out by metairie cultivation are much greater, and consequently hired labour is obtainable with difficulty, and is only given in a desultory and capricious manner. Yet the labouring class of this island cannot be characterised an idle set of people; on the contrary, I look upon them as being far more industrious than others of their class in some of the other islands.

56. As I have before remarked, many of them are metayers, a great number are possessed of freeholds, and all of them have good provision grounds. If they do not give all their time to estate work, it is no doubt because they find it more advantageous to bestow their labour elsewhere, or otherwise, but it cannot be said to be for the mere love of idleness.

57. There can be no doubt that more labour is wanted for the effective working of a large sugar plantation, and that immigration, even were the means of securing more continuous and regular labour on estates, would be highly advantageous.

Education.

58. The importance of encouraging the education of the children of the native population has long been recognized in this island, and the legislature has at all times freely contributed towards the support of churches and the maintenance of schools, more than the one-sixth of the total revenue of the island being appropriated to these purposes.

59. In the cause of education, the members of the United Brethren take the most prominent lead, and their constantly augmenting efforts are attended by corrresponding results, as shown by the progressive increase in the number of pupils of both sexes attending the schools at their establishments.

60. The Wesleyan schools rank next in regard to the number of scholars; and the Church of England, although more numerous than those of the Moravians, and about equal in number to those of the Wesleyans, exhibit much less favourable returns in respect to attendance or efficiency.

61. In all the schools moderate fees are paid by the children attending. In the case of the Moravian schools, those fees are paid always in advance, and average from 1*s.* to 2*s.* per quarter, and the establishments are almost self-supporting. In general the teachers are very inadequately remunerated, and, with few exceptions, are little qualified for their avocations.

62. A good school for the education of the middle class is much wanted; but I am sorry to say that an attempt to establish such an institution completely failed, and the teacher, an educated trained schoolmaster from the National Irish School Establishment, died a few months ago.

63. Annexed are returns of the attendance at churches and schools, showing the centesimal proportion to the estimated island population to be respectively 41·3 and 11·85, a much larger proportion in both cases than appears from the statistical returns of either Grenada, St. Vincent, or St Lucia. Sub-Encls. 13 and 14.

64. The island is divided into three benefices or cures, and there are three rectors and one curate of the Church of England, three Moravian missionaries and two Wesleyan clergymen, besides several local preachers of the same society. They are zealous in the performance of their respective duties, and are much respected by all.

Prisons and Prisoners.

65. The annual report of the inspector of prisons, and the annexed return of crimes and offences prepared by the acting provost marshal, exhibit a remarkable diminution in the number of convict prisoners, the total number of prisoners at the end of the year being only twelve, including two debtors, two prisoners for trial, and one for want of sureties to keep the peace. Sub-Encl. 15.

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66. Measures are now in progress for the conversion of the military hospital at Fort King George into a common gaol, and which when completed will enable me to dispense with the long-condemned gaol of Scarborough, other than as a police station and place for the temporary confinement of offenders taken into custody by the police.

General Remarks.

67. I have little to add to the foregoing observations on the principal topics adverted to in the Blue Book for the last year. The statistical tables and returns to which reference has been made sufficiently indicate the improved financial state of the colony, with an increased revenue under diminished taxation, advantages which have been gained without in any way impairing the efficiency of the public service, the parliamentary grants for ecclesiastical and educational purposes, as well as those for the repairs of the public highways and for the maintenance of the poor, having been all maintained or augmented, whilst liberal provision at the same time has been made by the legislature for the execution of public works long required.

68. The sanitary condition of the island has been good; the peace and general tranquillity of the colony has been undisturbed; cultivation and the manufacture of the staple product has been extended, under the encouraging prospect of an improved and remunerative market; and crime has diminished, under the beneficent influence of education and enlightenment.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. V. DRYSDALE, Lieut.-Governor.

ABSTRACT RETURNS from the Blue Book for 1854, 1855, 1856, and 1857.

Revenue.

Year.	Customs Duties.			Assessed and other Taxes.	Total.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Import.	Export.	Tonnage.				
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1854 -	3,729	—	271	4,014	8,014	—	2,836
1855 -	3,509	—	312	4,760	8,581	567	—
1856 -	5,600	66	414	4,465	10,545	1,964	—
1857 -	5,716	59	313	6,081	12,169	1,624	—

Expenditure, Colonial.

Year.	Civil Government.	Judicial.	Ecclesiastical.	Educational.	Other Expenditure.	Total.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1854	2,529	607	722	337	1,803	8,014	—	2,759
1855	2,042	650	922	84	4,049	7,747	—	267
1856	1,583	1,170	1,446	503	7,869	12,571	4,824	—
1857	2,261	800	948	459	5,490	9,958	—	2,613

Expenditure, Local and Parochial.

Nil.

Expenditure, Great Britain.

Year.	Civil.	Military.	Total.	Remarks.
	£	£	£	
1854	2,990	Nil.	2,990	No troops stationed in the island.
1855	2,340		2,340	One stipendiary magistrate retired on a pension of 150*l.*, 8th June 1857.
1856	2,340		2,340	
1857	2,087		2,087	

This Expenditure includes the Salaries of the Lieut.-Governor, the Stipendiary Magistrates, and Deputy Postmaster-General.

Population.

Year.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Remarks.
	Estimated.	Estimated.	Estimated.	
1854	7,430	7,775	15,205	The population according to the last census in June 1851 was 14,378.
1855	7,430	7,775	15,205	
1856	7,456	7,937	15,393	
1857	7,599	8,080	15,679	

* White population about 140 souls.

Land.

Year.	Area in Square Miles.	Average under Cultivation.	Remarks.
1854	97 square miles, or 62,080 acres.	Estimated at 7,800.	The quantity cultivated as provision grounds cannot be ascertained.
1855		Estimated at 2,580 in canes.	
1856		Estimated at 2,700 in canes.	
1857	—	Estimated at 2,800 in canes.	

Coins and Currency.

Year.	Specie in Circulation.	Notes in Circulation.	Remarks.
1854 } 1855 } 1856 } 1857 }	The Amount is unknown.	Notes of the Colonial Bank, perhaps 200*l.* or 300*l.*	There is no bank in Tobago.

Churches.

Year.	Church of England.	Other Denominations.	No. of Sittings.	Average Attendance.	Centesimal Proportion to the Population.	Remarks.
1854	7	9	7,350	6,335	41·6	7 Wesleyan and 3 Moravian chapels.
1855	7	9	7,350	6,335	40·9	
1856	7	10	7,600	6,392	41·5	
1857	7	10	7,600	6,480	41·3	

Schools.

Year.	Church of England.	Other Denominations.	Total No. of Scholars.	Centesimal Proportion to the Population.	Remarks.
1854	443	1,485	1,928	12·6	—
1855	377	1,514	1,891	12·4	
1856	344	1,291	1,535	9·97	
1857	436	1,424	1,860	11·85	

Imports. *Exports.*

VALUE IN STERLING.

Year.	From Great Britain.	From British Colonies.	From Foreign Countries.	Total.	To Great Britain.	To British Colonies.	To Foreign Countries.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1854	16,751	33,002	2,554	52,307	49,642	112	—	49,754
1855	10,373	25,195	1,792	37,360	44,794	2,593	—	47,387
1856	20,992	38,392	610	59,994	70,226	9,553	10	79,789
1857	18,324	39,049	3,051	60,424	63,231	12,824	67	76,122

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Shipping.

Year.	INWARDS. From Great Britain.	From British Colonies.	From Foreign Countries.	Total.	OUTWARDS. To Great Britain.	To British Colonies.	To Foreign Countries.	Total.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
1854	2,913	2,490	424	5,827	2,913	2,490	424	5,827
1855	3,007	1,775	40	4,822	2,640	2,183	48	4,871
1856	3,814	3,069	210	7,093	3,678	2,753	210	6,641
1857	2,966	2,365	822	6,153	2,836	2,114	409	5,359

Crimes and other Offences.

Year.	Felonies.	Misdemeanors.	Other Offences.	Total.	Increase.	Decrease.	Centesimal Proportion.	Debtors.
1854	22	77	45	144	—	49	·94	14
1855	7	58	52	117	—	27	·76	10
1856	5	57	24	86	—	31	·55	5
1857	5	41	18	64	—	22	·40	10

Sub-Enclosure 1.

SIR, Tobago, 31st December 1857.

1 & 2 Vict. c. 67. IN terms of the Imperial Act "for the better regulation of prisons in the West Indies," I have the honour to report as to the Common Gaol at Scarborough and the "Tobago Convict Prison."

I.—*Common Gaol at Scarborough.*

Prisoners in this gaol are chiefly,—

1. Persons convicted of minor offences.
2. Committed for trial.
3. Debtors.

In convictions for petty thefts I learn that the prisoner is occasionally transferred to the "Tobago convict prison," under the sanction, I presume, of the Lieutenant-Governor.

This prison is in as cleanly and orderly a condition as circumstances admit of.

Of late there have been but few prisoners. At this date the numbers are,

31st Dec. 1857.

Convicted of minor offences :—	
Committed for want of securities to keep the peace - - - -	1
Committed for trial at Queen's Bench - - - - - -	2
„ for debt - - - - - - -	2
Total - - -	5

Convict prison, Clause 12.

31st Dec. 1857.

II.—*The Tobago Convict Prison.*

This gaol is satisfactorily conducted. The following table exhibits the number of convicts and their offences as on 1st January and 31st December 1857 :—

Crimes.

——	Murder.	Unnatural.	Rape.	Larceny.	Cutting and wounding.	Conspiracy.	Sheep-stealing.	Forgery.	Total.
Number of convicts :									
1st January 1857	1	1	1	7	1	1	2	—	14
31st Dec. „	1	1	—	2	2	1	—	1	8
Increase - -	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	2
Decrease - -	—	—	1	5	—	—	2	—	8
Decrease on the year 1857 - - -									6

During the year (1857), therefore, there has been a considerable diminution in the number of convict prisoners (about 57 per cent.), which I chiefly attribute to the fact that those Barbadians who used to crowd our gaols have left or are leaving the colony.

There is also in this gaol a prisoner convicted of petty theft, and transferred from the common gaol.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. A. CHILD,
Inspector of Prisons.

Sub-Enclosure 2.

Financial Report for 1857.

The Executive Committee have the honour to lay before the honourable the Legislative Houses the following reports:—

1st. An account of the receipts and payments at the public treasury for the year 1857.

2d. Report of proceedings with reference to the loan from Her Majesty's Government to this island to 31st December 1857.

3d. Report on treasury bills.

4th. A statement of the presumed liabilities and assets of the colony, estimated to 31st March 1858.

	£	s.	d.
From the first of these reports it will appear that there was on the 1st January 1857 a balance in the hands of the public treasurer of	1,864	2	0
That during the year there were received,—			
for arrears of taxes for 1855	53	5	7
for arrears of taxes for 1856	2,618	5	0
receipts in 1857	9,498	4	6
Making together a total of	14,033	17	1

and there still remained to be collected at 1st January 1858 about 276*l.* 2*s.*, of which 129*l.* 9*s.* 10*d.*, as well as 49*l.* 15*s.* of land and other taxes which were not expected, have been realized to date.

	£	s.	d.
That out of the foregoing monies (14,033*l.* 17*s.* 1*d.*) there were paid,—			
for arrears due at 31st December 1856	2,463	18	5
for the service of 1857	9,258	10	1½
making a total payment of	11,722	8	6½
and leaving a balance in cash of	2,311	8	6½
together with about 276*l.* yet to collect for 1856 and 1857, to meet the remaining demands against the public for 1857, amounting to	1,125	4	5½
and the other unextinguished liabilities of former years, amounting to	623	14	3
or together	1,748	18	8½

exclusive of the monies borrowed by the public from the Loan Commissioners.

In looking at the sum of 12,847*l.* 13*s.* as being the apparent expenditure for 1857, it must be remembered that 2,212*l.* 8*s.* 0¾*d.* was spent in liquidation of treasury bills and interest, of which sum 688*l.* was only due and payable at 1st April 1858, and 688*l.* payable at 1st April 1859, but the anticipation of these payments saved the public 87*l.* 17*s.* 5*d.* for interest thereon.

With reference to the second report, "the proceedings under the Loan Act," it will be observed that on 31st December last there was due to the Lords of Her Majesty's Treasury 10,000*l.*, which is payable in ten annual instalments of 1,000*l.* each, with interest at 3*l.* 5*s.* per centum per annum. The last instalment will fall due and become payable at 1st October 1867.

	£	s.	d.
Of the 10,000*l.* so due to the Lords of the Treasury there is due by private borrowers	5,968	3	11
„ „ „ by the public	2,664	0	0
payable in nine annual instalments	8,632	3	11
and there remains—			
in cash	159 8 11		
in warrants	997 2 3		
at debit of charges account	211 4 11		
	1,367	16	1
making up the Total	10,000	0	0

The three last-mentioned items, amounting to 1,367*l.* 16*s.* 1*d.*, is the difference between the monies borrowed from the Lords of the Treasury and those lent in the island; and as it is unnecessary that the warrants, 997*l.* 2*s.* 3*d.*, should be immediately cashed, as the amount will not be required until 1867, it is considered advisable that they should be cancelled, and added at once to the debt due by the "public on loan account," and their amount gradually liquidated by distributing this account over the ten years, and raising the yearly proportion in the annual supplies.

The 3d report (on the treasury bills) shows, that in anticipation of the special revenues set apart by the Treasury Bills Act, the committee have taken out of the general revenue of the colony the sum of 503*l.* 9*s.* 11*d.* to liquidate treasury bills to 1st April 1859, thus saving the interest thereon.

The fourth statement (of presumed liabilities and assets estimated to 31st March 1858) is sufficiently explanatory of our monetary position, and the committee have to congratulate the honourable houses on the improved financial prospects of the colony as exhibited by these respective reports. All which they humbly submit.

(Signed) JAMES HY. KEENS.
S. H. FREDERIC ABBOTT.
ANGUS MELVILL.

Committee Rooms,
5th March 1858.

Sub-Enclosure 3.

RETURN, in a Tabular Form, for the last Year in which they can be made up, of the Gross Revenue under their different Heads, exhibiting the Cost of Collection, and any Deductions made in their Progress to the Public Treasury.

GROSS REVENUE.

Customs.	Tonnage, Port, and Harbour Dues.	Taxes and Excise.	Fines and Forfeitures.	Fees of Office.	Lighthouse Dues.	Land, Casual and Territorial.	Canals and Public Works.	Immigrant Tax.	Interest.	Miscellaneous Receipts.	Gross Amount of Revenue.	Cost of Collection.
£ s. d.	£ s. d.	Arrears of 1855 £ s. d.	£ s. d.		£ s. d.		£ s. d.			£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Imports - 5,715 13 4	312 13 6	and 1856 - 2,671 10 7	127 5 10	Nil.	67 8 0	Nil.	49 11 2	Nil.	Nil.	63 16 0	12,169 15 1	520 5 2½
Exports - 59 5 2		1857 - - 3,102 11 6										
		Total - 6,774 2 1										

(Signed) CHAS. A. BERKELEY, Treasurer.

Sub-Enclosure 4.

RETURN, in a Tabular Form, for the last Year in which they can be made up, of the Disbursements under their different Heads, showing the Authority under which such Disbursements were made.

EXPENDITURE.

Civil Establishment and Salaries of Public Officers.	Judicial Establishment.	Ecclesiastical.	Education.	Military and Fortification.	Militia.	Pensions.	Police and Gaols.	Roads and Bridges.	Works and Buildings.	Lighthouses.	Expenses of the Legislature.	Poor.	Hospitals, Lunatic Asylums, and other charitable Institutions.	Printing and Stationery.	Interest on Debts.	Immigration.	Drawbacks, &c.	Harbours, Piers, Wharfs, &c.	Miscellaneous.	Total Expenditure.	Authority.
£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.			£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.		£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
2,048 17 7	800 0 0	948 10 2	459 4 9	Nil.	Nil.	42 2 4	1,510 9 1¼	540 3 1	500 0 0	46 3 11	225 2 0	112 10 0	Nil.	212 0 0	Principal 2,076 0 0 Interest 136 8 0	Nil.	22 19 9	Nil.	278 3 7	9,958 14 7	Appropriation Act, 1857.

The above amount of 9,958*l.* 14*s.* 7*d.* includes, not only the actual payments in 1857 for that year, but also the amount of warrants drawn for that year, and not called for till subsequently to the 31st December 1857, viz., 700*l.* 4*s.* 5*d.*

	£ s. d.
Actual payments to the 31st December 1857 - - - - -	9,258 10 2
Paid since (Warrants, 1857) - - - - - - -	700 4 5
Actual Expenditure for 1857 - - - - -	9,958 14 7

(Signed) CHAS. A. BERKELEY, Treasurer.

Sub-Enclosure 5.

TOTAL VALUE in Sterling of the IMPORTS and EXPORTS of the Colony of TOBAGO, in the Years 1856 and 1857.

1856.			1857.		
COUNTRIES.	Imports therefrom.	Exports thereto.	COUNTRIES.	Imports therefrom.	Exports thereto.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
United Kingdom - -	20,992 0 0	70,226 0 0	United Kingdom - -	18,324 0 0	63,231 0 0
British West Indian Colonies	36,302 0 0	9,553 0 0	British West Indian Colonies	37,650 0 0	12,640 5 0
British North America -	2,090 0 0	0 10 0	British North America -	1,399 0 0	184 0 0
Holland - - -	355 0 0	—	Holland - - -	16 0 0	—
United States of America -	255 0 0	—	United States of America -	3,035 0 0	—
Danish West Indies -	—	10 0 0	Danish West Indies -	—	66 15 0
Total - -	59,994 0 0	79,789 10 0	Total - -	60,424 0 0	76,122 0 0

The small amount of difference between the total values of imports in 1856 and 1857 renders any remark from the treasurer unnecessary.

The exports in 1857 fell considerably short in quantity of the preceding year, but the values were considerably increased in 1857.

(Signed) CHAS. A. BERKELEY, Treasurer.

Sub-Enclosure 6.

RETURN of SUGAR, RUM, and MOLASSES exported from the Island of TOBAGO, from the Year 1827 to the Year 1857, both inclusive.

YEARS.	SUGAR.						RUM.				MOLASSES.	
	Hogs-heads.	Tierces.	Half Tierces.	Barrels.	Average Weight.	Cwts.	Puns.	Hogs-heads.	Two Casks.	Gallons.	Puns.	Cwts.
1827	5,264	427	—	96		86,054	3,886	88	—	362,440	144½	1,590
1828	8,490	517	—	193		137,131	5,418	112	—	504,731	828	9,108
1829	7,480	325	—	123		119,436	4,204	116	—	393,264	217½	2,393
1830	6,611	526	—	108		107,946	4,226	208	—	400,440	67½	743
1831	8,234	575	—	224		133,825	5,275	109	26	492,132	173	1,903
1832	7,742	546	—	273		126,007	3,660	20	17	337,916	1,637½	18,013
1833	6,374	555	—	278		104,965	2,955	55	—	273,290	1,531	16,841
1834	5,392	470	—	223		88,722	2,875	130	—	271,780	1,181	12,991
1835	5,058	574	—	477		85,093	3,289	152	—	311,098	549	6,039
1836	7,396	620	—	813		122,462	3,903	295	4	375,876	1,295	14,245
1837	5,836	625	—	651		98,010	3,377	252	9	325,048	944½	10,390
1838	4,580	504	—	395		76,820	2,539	187	13	244,422	644	7,084
1839	5,005	511	—	439		83,565	2,821	122	—	266,364	540	5,940
1840	3,804	250	—	373		62,208	1,850	81	—	174,736	437½	4,813
1841	2,467	225	—	222		40,932	1,064	53	—	100,856	244	2,684
1842	2,887	375	—	455		49,408	1,411	83	—	134,460	451½	4,967
1843	3,073	425	20	427		52,845	1,147	71	25	110,200	868½	9,554
1844	3,404	417	—	534½		58,001	1,226	109	10	119,176	1,357	14,927
1845	3,645	508	43	612		63,037	1,624	128	33½	157,514	699	7,689
1846	2,660	320	24	435½		45,433	1,178	50	12	111,512	436	4,796
1847	4,075	601	40	1,450½	15½ cwt. per hogshead.	72,293	2,195	1,091	32	263,932	518	5,698
1848	2,922	571	25	1,103½		53,345	1,489	36	46	140,292	195½	2,151
1849	3,050	560	31	1,709		56,464	1,266	68	4	120,392	550	6,050
1850	2,489	601	22	1,510½		47,731	1,228	28	5	114,684	310	3,410
1851	2,787	771	59	2,641½		56,415	1,436	43	3	134,604	142	1,562
1852	3,382	762	63	3,246		66,879	1,600	31	3	149,020	137¼	1,510
1853	2,746	713	42	3,235½		56,395	1,484	33	—	138,374	137	1,507
1854	2,521	576	77	2,293		49,844	1,649	96	—	157,084	75	825
1855	2,103	460	228	1,670		41,791	1,227	72	8	116,740	42	462
1856	3,039	1,293	93	3,301		67,147	1,844	114	3	176,116	219	2,299
1857	2,199	759	71	3,016		48,096	1,091	71	15	104,796	215	2,257

(Signed) CHAS. A. BERKELEY, Treasurer.

Sub-Enclosure 7.

ABSTRACT OF THE VALUATION ROLL,

Under the Act 19 Vict. cap. 4., entitled "An Act for the Valuation of Lands, Tenements, and Hereditaments in Tobago."

Number of Properties valued.	Under 1*l.*	1*l.* to 2*l.*	2*l.* to 3*l.*	3*l.* to 4*l.*	4*l.* to 5*l.*	5*l.* to 6*l.*	6*l.* to 7*l.*	7*l.* to 8*l.*	8*l.* to 9*l.*	9*l.* to 10*l.*	10*l.* to 15*l.*	15*l.* to 20*l.*	20*l.* to 30*l.*	30*l.* to 40*l.*	40*l.* to 50*l.*	50*l.* to 100*l.*	100*l.* to 150*l.*	150*l.* to 200*l.*	200*l.* to 250*l.*	250*l.* to 300*l.*	Grand Total.
Town of Scarborough -	—	18	37	29	10	11	16	7	7	4	27	10	21	11	7	8	—	1	—	—	—
„ Plymouth - -	—	24	10	41	23	10	8	6	4	1	6	2	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Parish of St. Andrew -	2	123	115	64	50	40	16	3	9	3	21	6	14	12	3	4	2	2	—	1	—
„ St. George - -	—	111	139	69	21	11	6	1	2	—	1	—	2	—	1	5	4	—	1	1	—
„ St. Mary - -	3	35	45	24	8	2	2	1	1	1	5	1	2	—	—	1	3	—	1	—	—
„ St. John - -	1	2	17	1	7	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	2	—	—	3	2	—	—	—	—
„ St. Paul - -	4	21	83	16	11	3	1	—	3	1	5	3	2	—	—	1	3	—	1	1	—
„ St. Patrick -	—	103	151	80	33	6	2	—	—	—	1	—	2	1	1	2	6	1	2	1	—
„ St. David - -	—	173	224	101	43	10	9	2	3	1	5	5	5	2	—	5	7	3	1	1	—
Total - -	10	610	821	425	206	93	61	20	29	11	72	27	52	27	12	29	27	7	6	5	2,550

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Total number of properties returned, 2,550.						
Sixty sugar estates valued - - - - - -	7,645	0	0			
Other properties valued - - - - - -	11,544	0	0			
Total annual valuation on the return - - - - -	19,189	0	0			
Highest valuation of a sugar estate - - £280, tax 7½ per cent. - - - -				21	0	0
Lowest ditto ditto - - - 50, ditto - - - - -				3	15	0
Highest valuation of other property - - 150, ditto - - - -				11	5	0
Lowest ditto ditto - - - 1, ditto - - - -				0	1	6
Average assessment on sugar estates - - ditto - - - -				9	11	1¼
Ditto on other properties - - - ditto - - - - -				0	3	8¾

Sub-Enclosure 8.

RETURN of the AMOUNT paid for LABOUR in repairing the PUBLIC ROADS of the ISLAND of TOBAGO, with the cost of Materials, Superintendence, &c., and number of Labourers employed in each Parish, during the Year ended 31st December 1857.

Details of Expenditure.	Parish of St. Andrew, including the Town of Scarborough.	Parish of St. Patrick.	Parish of St. David.	Parish of St. George.	Parish of St. Mary.	Parish of St. Paul.	Parish of St. John.	General Totals.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Paid to labourer at 6*d.* per diem	63 2 6	64 15 6	142 0 3	29 0 6	18 3 0	10 8 6	11 1 0	338 11 3
Masons and other labourers employed in repairing drains and mending bridges - -	17 11 0	—	0 3 0	—	—	1 0 0	2 14 0	21 8 0
Cost of materials, lime, lumber, nails, &c. - - - -	17 19 2	—	1 2 6	—	—	1 9 9	4 2 6	24 13 11
Pay of constables summoning labourers and superintending the labour - - -	20 14 0	7 7 0	21 1 6	4 7 0	2 14 0	1 7 0	4 10 0	62 0 6
Cartage - - -	32 14 6	10 12 0	15 10 0	3 0 0	11 6 0	4 14 0	—	77 16 6
Repairing the military road -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total - - £	152 1 2	82 14 6	179 17 3	36 7 6	32 3 0	20 19 3	22 7 6	526 10 2
Number of labourers employed at 6*d.* per diem - - -	467	493	1,327	184	331	224	85	3,111
Number of days employed -	2,525	2,589	5,680½	1,161	726	417	442	13,540½
	Days. Hours.	Days. Hours.	Days. Hours.	Days. Hours.	Days. Hours.	Days. Hours.	Days. Hours.	Days. Hours.
Average number of days employed per man - - -	5 $3\frac{39}{60}$	5 $2\frac{15}{60}$	4 $2\frac{31}{60}$	6 $2\frac{47}{60}$	2 $1\frac{44}{60}$	1 $7\frac{45}{60}$	5 $1\frac{48}{60}$	4 $3\frac{10}{60}$

Road expenditure for seven years ending 31st December 1857.

	£ s. d.	
1851 - -	600 0 0	Actual payments in each year, including arrears for the previous year.
1852 - -	505 2 9	
1853 - -	669 17 7	
1854 - -	240 0 2	
1855 - -	348 11 2	
1856 - -	719 12 3	
1857 - -	540 3 1	
	£3,623 7 0	

Average yearly expenditure - £517 12 5

Estimated number of miles of public roads - - - 97

Average annual cost of repairs per mile for seven years - £5 6 $8\frac{1}{2}$

(Signed) ALBERT J. ALLOM,
Colonial Secretary.

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Sub-Enclosure. 9.

ESTIMATED COST of the Cultivation and Manufacture of Sugar by the Hoe from one acre of land in the Windward District.

	£	s.	d.
1. Brushing and clearing light land by six men at 8*d.*	0	4	0
2. Making piggots and lining for 28 holing	0	2	10
3. Holing, 30 hoes, including superintendent and water carriers, at 9*d.*	1	2	6
4. Carting manure, 16 people at 9*d.*	0	12	0
5. Cleaning drains, 3 men at 9*d.*	0	2	3
6. Holing, 250 holes each, 12 people at 9*d.*	0	9	0
7. Throwing out farmyard manure, 200 each, 14 at 6*d.*	0	7	0
8. Cutting plants, 6 at 8*d.*	0	4	0
9. Carrying plants, 6 at 8*d.*	0	4	0
10. Planting canes, 10 at 8*d.*	0	6	8
11. Weeding and supplying plants, 1st tem., 16 at 8*d.*	0	10	8
12. Ditto 2d „ 12 at 8*d.*	0	8	0
13. Ditto 3d „ 12 at 8*d.*	0	8	0
14. Trashing, 5 at 8*d.*	0	3	4
15. Cutting canes, 15 at 9*d.*	0	11	3
16. Carting canes to mill, 4 men at 1*s.*	0	4	0
17. Grinding canes, nine of a mill gang at 10*d.*	0	7	6
18. 4 boilermen, 2 firemen, and 3 megass carriers at 1*s.*	0	9	0
19. Potting sugar	0	1	0
20. Empty hogsheads	1	0	0
21. Ramming and heading up and carting to bay	0	10	0
	8	7	0

The above is an estimation at which I would not undertake to do it, although it is what we should have but seldom got.

The average yield over a whole crop may be fairly estimated at 1½ hhd. per acre.

It will be observed that the tear and wear of implements and stock form no part of the above calculation, nor the labour expended in making manure, which is considerable, neither is the putting or chopping of tops and grass for the stock put down, or the Creole drying megass for fuel, or the jobbers cutting bamboos for the same purpose. Estimated cost of the cultivation and manufacture of sugar by the plough from one acre of land less than the hoe by 18*s.* 4*d.*, say 7*l.* 8*s.* 8*d.*

The plough cannot be used to advantage to windward until the number of open drains are greatly reduced by either thorough or tile drains. At present the cleaning out of the drains after the plough is attended with a great loss of labour.

Sub-Enclosure 10.

MEMORANDUM.

	£	s.	d.
1. Brushing an acre of land	0	10	0
Holing an acre of land	1	1	4
Landing out and carrying plants	0	8	0
Drilling and planting	0	10	0
Carting out dung and manuring (say 2,722 good sized baskets per acre), without the expense of stock	0	18	0
Weeding an acre of land, say four times	1	16	0
	5	3	4
2. Deduct holing an acre of land	1	1	4
	4	2	0

I have seen grubbers used in this district, but without the advantages ascribed to them in the cultivation of the cane.

3. You do not inquire the cost of grinding, whether by steam, water, or wind mill power. The cost entailed upon an estate entirely dependent upon wind proves sometimes very heavy. I have seen such a mill in operation for a week, and grind canes sufficient to make a tierce of sugar.

The cost of cutting canes depends very much upon their quality. In good canes nine labourers can cut and tie up sufficient to make more than a hogshead, whilst in thin ratoons twice the number could not do so.

I have made a crop of 100 hogsheads as cheap as one of 50 hogsheads, viz., as regards cutting, grinding, and manufacturing.

4. In 1836 the return from plant canes in this district averaged from two, three, to even four hogsheads. The seasons have, however, changed very much to the disadvantage of cultivation. One hogshead per acre from plants mixed with ratoons is not considered bad. I believe that in this district during last crop not more than half a hogshead was realized from an acre of land.

Sub-Enclosure 11.

ACCOUNT of EXPENSES incurred in establishing a Plant for Crop 1859 on Mount Irvine Estate, Tobago.

	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
No. 3.—12½ acres.			
Brushing the whole field, at 6*s.* the acre -	- - -	3 15 0	
A. Close ploughing and making cane holes with the plough on 8¾ acres of this field - -	8 15 0		
A. Cross-holing the same, 8¾ acres - - -	2 10 8		
A. Throwing out manure on the same - -	2 5 7		
A. Covering the manure - - - -	1 1 9		
A. Cutting plants for the same - - -	0 4 0		
A. Planting them - - - - -	1 11 2		
		16 8 2	or 1*l.* 17*s.* 6*d.* per acre.
B. Digging 2½ acres (cane holes 4 feet square) -	2 8 8		
B. Cutting plants - - - - -	0 3 4		
B. Planting them - - - - -	0 15 0		
		3 7 0	or 1*l.* 6*s.* 9¼*d.* the acre.
Digging 1¼ acres (cane holes 5 feet square) - -	1 1 9		
Cutting plants for the same - - - -	0 0 7		
Planting them - - - - -	0 4 5		
		1 6 9	or 1*l.* 1*s.* 4¾*d.* per acre.
No. 8.—5½ acres.			
Stumping out guinea grass - - - -	3 1 1		
Digging cane holes (4 feet square) - - -	6 9 0		
Cutting plants - - - - -	0 7 4		
Planting them - - - - -	1 16 0		
		11 13 5	
No. 13.—17 acres.			
Brushing the field, at 6*s.* the acre - - -	5 2 0		
Ploughing 7 acres - - - - -	7 13 0		
Cross-holing 4 acres - - - -	1 5 9		
Digging 10 acres - - - - -	12 13 0		
Planting the whole field (17 acres) - - -	5 2 0		
Cutting the plant - - - - -	1 2 8		
		32 18 5	
No. 10.—6 acres.			
Brushing the field - - - -	2 2 0		
Digging cane holes - - - - -	7 10 8		
Cutting the plants - - - - -	0 9 4		
Planting them - - - - -	2 10 2		
		12 12 2	
Carting plants during the whole season, say one mule cart, 30 days, at 8*d.* - - - -	- - -	1 0 0	
Carting manure - - - - -	- - -	1 11 8	
Drivers and water carriers - - - -	- - -	6 13 0	
Total expense of establishing 41 acres -	- - -	91 5 7	

The 8 acres of No. 3. indicated on the other side by A. have been twice worked with the grubber in the month of January, at an expense for each grubbing of 1*s.* 10*d.* the acre.

The annexed return exhibits the expense incurred in making certain experiments, with the view to the substitution of an improved system of agriculture for that now in use in the island of Tobago:—

A. indicates the method which it is proposed to adopt.

B. the old method.

The two methods being so different, and the one effecting so much more complete a tillage than the other, they cannot be compared till the canes are reaped.

It may reasonably be expected that in future years the new plan will be carried out at a less expense than has been incurred in a first attempt.

Hitherto the preparation of the soil for planting has been carried on partly by means of the hoe, and partly with the plough; but though the plough has been in use for many years, it has been used merely as an assistant to the hoe in carrying out the old system, and no improvement has by its means been effected in tilling the soil.

The objects which I am seeking to effect are—

1. The thorough pulverization of the soil by the plough and grubber at an early period of the year, in order to expose it to the fertilizing influence of the rain and atmosphere.

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2. The destruction of the weeds prior to planting, or at least within two months after planting, instead of the old plan of deferring weeding till the plant has appeared above ground.
3. Manuring prior to planting.
4. Wide planting, so as to give sufficient soil to each plant, and, what is no less requisite, sufficient air.
5. The substitution of implements drawn by oxen or horses for the hand hoe in weeding.

The experiments made this season have been so far satisfactory as to leave no doubt in my mind of my being able to carry out all these objects, and to induce me to determine to adopt the new method on both Mount Irvine and Buccoo estates, except in certain situations where the swampy nature of the ground, or the excessive steepness of the hills, may render it impossible or unprofitable to work with ploughs and other implements drawn by horses or oxen.

Only two difficulties present themselves in carrying out these improvements on estates in this island: 1st, the want of sufficient *well-trained* stock; 2d, the want of intelligent superintendence, that is, the superintendence of men practically acquainted with agriculture as pursued in more advanced countries. The former want I hope to supply by the introduction of horses; the latter I have already supplied on Mount Irvine by placing agricultural superintendence of the estate in the hands of an intelligent farming man from Scotland.

Sub-Enclosure 12.

In the Complaint Court of Tobago, 10th October 1853.

Lindsay, Plaintiff, against Dalling, Defendant.

Abbott, Q.C., for Plaintiff.—Van Buren, Solicitor General, for Defendant.

This was an action of trespass for breaking and entering the plaintiff's close, and cutting down his sugar canes.

The acts complained of were admitted, and the plaintiff and defendant agreed to take the judgment of the court upon the following

CASE.

The plaintiff being in December 1851 general labourer on the Shirvan estate, became a metayer of the close mentioned in the pleadings, part of that estate.

The defendant is manager of the proprietor of that estate.

By the general metairie agreement the metayer agrees to cultivate a portion of land in a husban-like manner, at his own expense, under the direction and inspection of the proprietor of the land, such proprietor furnishing the plants; to crop the land, to carry such crop to the works, and to have the same manufactured into sugar, at his own expense, but always under the direction and inspection of such proprietor, the latter furnishing the necessary carts and stock, and allowing the use of the works of the estate free from any charge or expense to the metayer for the same, beyond the care and feeding of the mules during the time they are employed by the metayer.

The metayer is to have one half of the sugar after it is cured, and the proprietor gets the other half, together with the skimmings and molasses. The portion belonging to the metayer, after being cured, and packed in casks of his own furnishing, is carted on carts or trucks to the shipping bay or town nearest to the estate, the metayer furnishing the cartmen.

In fact the proprietor furnishes the land, the works, the carts, and the stock, and receives for it half the sugar, and all the skimmings and molasses; and, on the other hand, the metayer furnishes all the labour required for the proper cultivation of such land, for the proper manufacture of the crop into sugar, and the proper care and employment of such works, carts, and stock, but subject always to the direction and inspection of the proprietor.

Before and at the time mentioned in the pleadings the plaintiff had ceased to be a general labourer on the Shirvan estate.

For the plaintiff it was contended that he had a sufficient interest in the land to support an action for trespass.

For the defendant the case was argued at great length by the solicitor-general, who contended that the metayer had not possession of the land, that the dominion and the use were in the owner of the soil, who parted with nothing more than to an ordinary job labourer for hire, and that the agreement was a contract for work and labour, and not for the use of the land.

On a subsequent day the court, having taken time to consider the case, the chief justice delivered an elaborate judgment, by which he decided that the relation between the owner of the estate and the metayer was that of landlord and tenant.

Judgment for plaintiff.

In the Complaint Court of Tobago, 8th June 1857.

Trim Morrison, Plaintiff, against William Haynes, Defendant.

Abbott, Q.C. for Plaintiff.

Trespass, for breaking and entering the plaintiff's close, and destroying his sugar canes by driving cattle thereinto, and depasturing them thereupon.

The plaintiff commenced to plant canes as a metayer in the month of June 1856. In the ensuing month of October the defendant took possession of the estate, and gave the plaintiff notice that he was not to open any more land; and the defendant then went to Barbadoes. In December the defendant returned, and finding that the plaintiff had disregarded that notice, and had opened and planted more land, directed the stock-keeper to drive the cattle through the canes, and destroy them, which the stock-keeper did.

TOBAGO.

The chief justice, referring to the case of Lindsay against Dalling, in which the court held that the relation between a landlord and a metayer under a common metairie agreement is that of landlord and tenant, decided that the tenancy of a metayer who has planted a spring plant of canes, that is to say, canes planted between the first day of January and the first day of August in the same year, is a tenancy until the first day of July in the ensuing year, and thence from year to year; and that the tenancy of a metayer who has planted a fall plant of canes, that is to say, canes planted between the first day of August and the first day of January then next following, is a tenancy until the first day of July in the second year after such canes shall have been planted, and thence from year to year; and that in either case such tenancy is determinable at any time by the consent of both parties, or by either party on the thirtieth day of June, at the expiration of such first term or on the thirtieth day of June in any subsequent year, if such party shall have given to the other party six months' previous notice of his intention to put an end to such tenancy on such thirtieth day of June.

The court held, also, that a person who breaks land not allowed to him, or who, having some land in cultivation, opens more, after notice from the landlord that he is not to do so, cannot enforce the metairie agreement against the landlord for not allowing him the use of the works, &c. for the canes grown on such unallotted or additional land, nor maintain trespass against him for destroying or damaging the cultivation of such unallotted or additional land, such person or metayer being in respect thereof a mere trespasser, unless the landlord, after discovering such trespass, expressly or by tacit acquiescence, permit the trespasser to cultivate such land.

Held, also, that the court will give vindictive damages when a growing crop is wantonly or maliciously destroyed, but not without regard to the age of the canes, and the prospect of realizing the crop.

Judgment for plaintiff.

TOBAGO.

It is mutually agreed between of estate in the said island of the one part, and of the other part, as follows: The said agrees to permit and allow the said and take care of in a proper planter-like and regular manner, a piece of land marked in the plan of the said estate, No. and containing acres or thereabouts, and when the canes arising from such cultivation are matured, the said agrees to cut the same in a proper manner, to be carried to the mill by the said , and when the same are so carried the said agrees and undertakes to grind the same, and to do and perform all the work usually done by the mill gang, and when so ground the said agrees and engages to boil and manufacture the same into sugar, and when so manufactured he the said engages to assist and see the same potted, and in consideration of such labour to be done and performed by the said he shall be entitled to have and receive one of the sugar so manufactured and removed at liberty after being properly cured, and for the use of the said land, the stock, carts, utensils, and buildings, stores, and other expenses incurred by the said shall have and receive the other of the said sugar, and all the skimming, melasses, and sweets arising therefrom, and in order that the cane cultivation, the cutting, grinding, and manufacturing such canes, may be carried on in a regular and planter-like manner, the said agrees to find sufficient stock and machinery, and agrees to lend to the said stock and carts to take proportion of the sugar to the bay for sale or shipment as he may desire, the said being bound to load such carts, take care of the stock, and be answerable for the same when so lent to for such purpose, and in like manner when lent to carry out manure, or for any other purpose, and when so used, to feed, rub down, and put the same in the pen.

And it is hereby expressly agreed by and between the parties hereto that the land cultivated in canes under this agreement, and the sugar made therefrom, shall be cultivated and manufactured for the best advantage of all parties, under the immediate superintendence and direction of the manager or other person in charge of the said estate, and at his discretion and judgment; and, lastly,

It is hereby expressly agreed by and between the parties hereto, that if the said shall at any time fail or neglect to cultivate the canes on the said land in a proper and planter-like manner, or break or infringe any part of this agreement, or shall, without the consent in writing of the manager or other person in charge, part with or assign over the said land or any part of it to any other person, this agreement shall cease and be void from the beginning, and the proprietor shall and lawfully may, without any previous demand, enter upon the said land so neglected or assigned, and re-possess the same, and carry on the cultivation thereof, or re-let the same to any other person, without any right of emblements, or any allowance to be made to the said for any labour may have spent in the cultivation of the said land; but nevertheless if the said shall die pending the existence of this agreement, it shall and may be lawful for the or family of the said to keep and cultivate the said land in the same manner under this agreement as the said theretofore held and enjoyed the same. In witness whereof the said parties hereto have hereunto set their hands, this day of one thousand eight hundred and

This agreement being first read over to the within-named and fully explained by the said and apparently well understood by the said being explained in the presence of

Sub-Enclosure 13.

RETURN of CHURCHES and CHAPELS in TOBAGO, with the average attendance, &c., in each of the years 1853, 1854, 1855, 1856, and 1857.

DENOMINATION.	1853.			1854.			1855.			1856.			1857.		
	No. of Churches.	Average Attendance.	Centesimal Proportion to Population.	No. of Churches.	Average Attendance.	Centesimal Proportion to Population.	No. of Churches.	Average Attendance.	Centesimal Proportion to Population.	No. of Churches.	Average Attendance.	Centesimal Proportion to Population.	No. of Churches.	Average Attendance.	Centesimal Proportion to Population.
Church of England - - -	7	2,930	19·4	7	2,935	19·3	7	2,935	18·9	7	2,770	17·9	7	2,740	17·4
Wesleyan - - - -	7	3,400	22·6	7	3,400	22·3	7	3,400	21·9	7	2,200	14·2	7	2,290	14·6
Moravians - - - -	2			2			2			3	1,422	9·2	3	1,450	9·2
TOTALS - - -	16	6,330	42·09	16	6,335	41·6	16	6,335	40·9	17	6,392	41·5	17	6,480	41·3

(Signed) ALBERT J. ALLOM, Colonial Secretary.

Sub-Enclosure 14.

NUMBER of SCHOOLS of various DENOMINATIONS and SCHOLARS in each of the years 1853, 1854, 1855, 1856, and 1857.

DENOMINATION OF SCHOOLS.	1853.				1854.				1855.				1856.				1857.			
	Schools.	Scholars.			Schools.	Scholars.			Schools.	Scholars.			Schools.	Scholars.			Schools.	Scholars.		
		Males.	Females.	Total.		Males.	Females.	Total.		Males.	Females.	Total.		Males.	Females.	Total.		Males.	Females.	Total.
Church of England	9	314	245	559	8	241	202	443	7	178	199	377	8	193	151	344	8	211	225	436
Wesleyan - - -	7	357	190	547	7	384	214	598	7	355	197	552	6	295	142	437	7	360	185	545
Moravian - -	3	378	338	716	3	429	395	824	4	507	455	962	3	453	401	854	3	485	394	879
Private Schools - -		Not specified.			5	42	21	63		Not specified.				Not specified.				Not specified.		
	19	1,049	773	1,822	23	1,096	832	1,928	18	1,040	851	1,891	17	841	794	1,635	18	1,056	804	1,860

(Signed) ALBERT J. ALLOM, Colonial Secretary.

Sub-Enclosure 15. TOBAGO.

RETURN of CRIMES and OFFENCES.

Year.	Felons.	Misde-meanors.	Other Offences.	Total.	Increase.	Decrease.	Centesimal Proportion.	Debtors.
1851	11	46	61	118	—	—	·80	10
1852	14	62	55	131	13	—	·90	4
1853	24	74	95	193	62	—	1·33	8
1854	22	77	45	144	—	49	·94	14
1855	7	58	52	117	—	27	·76	10
1856	5	57	24	86	—	31	·55	5
1857	5	41	18	64	—	22	·40	10

17th June 1858. (Signed) S. F. TITZCK, Acting pro Mar. General.

ST. VINCENT.

ST. VINCENT.

No. 16. No. 16.

COPY of a DESPATCH from GOVERNOR HINCKS to the SECRETARY of STATE for the COLONIES.

Windward Islands, Barbadoes,
April 12, 1858.
(Received May 18, 1858.)

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship a Despatch from the Lieutenant-Governor of St. Vincent, together with the Blue Book for the year 1857, and the usual abstract returns.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. HINCKS.

The Secretary of State for the Colonies,
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure in No. 16. Encl. in No. 16.

Government House, St. Vincent,
March 20 1858.

SIR,

IN my Blue Book Report (No. 45) of last year, and in my Financial Despatch No. 46, of the 9th March 1857, I had the great gratification of reporting, just before I quitted St. Vincent on a temporary visit to England, that the colony generally was in a most satisfactory state; that ample provision had been made for clearing off the public debt (incurred for liabilities prior to my assuming the administration); that there was a clear balance of about two thousand pounds in the public treasury, without any claims whatever against it; that the revenue and expenditure were fairly balanced for the future; that agricultural operations had been largely extended; and that, in short, although the returns for the Blue Book of 1856 might not disclose any very marked advance upon those of 1855, the foundation had been laid for a great and progressive improvement which would tell most favourably in coming years.

2. Upon my return to St. Vincent in the beginning of the present year, I was happy to find that the colony was in the same satisfactory state as that in which I left it; that my anticipations of its continued progress and prosperity had been fully realised; and that, in consequence, many necessary and important services had been provided for, which it was impossible to undertake whilst the finances were in an embarrassed state.

There is every prospect of this progress and prosperity being continued, and already it is found practicable in the present year to include additional services of utility and importance in the current expenditure.

3. I have now the honour to transmit the Blue Book for the year 1857, accompanied by explanatory observations upon such parts of it as appear to require notice.

ST. VINCENT.

Revenue.

The revenue of 1857 was 19,767*l.* 14*s.* 10*d.*; that of 1856 was 16,942*l.* 3*s.* 8½*d.* (after deducting the loan raised to pay off liabilities incurred prior to 1855.)

There has consequently been an increase of revenue to the extent of 2,825*l.* 11*s.* 1½*d.* in 1857.

This augmentation is due chiefly to an increase in the receipts for duties upon imports, an extended cultivation having created a demand for additional supplies; to an increase in the receipts from tonnage duties arising from the presence of a larger amount of shipping; to an increase in the receipts under the Rum Act; to an alteration of the Income Tax Act, which made it more productive; and to the imposition of an additional tax upon exports.

At the same time the amount of revenue derived from Great Britain has been reduced from 2,770*l.* in 1856 to 1,870*l.* in 1857, owing to the demise of stipendiary magistrates, whose duties are now provided for by the colony.

Expenditure.

The expenditure of 1857 was 20,247*l.* 4*s.* 5½*d.*, that of 1856 was 17,036*l.* 17*s.* 4½*d.*, but in each of these years large sums are included which were in liquidation of liabilities incurred prior to 1855; namely,

	1857.	1856.
Public accounts	£542 4 11	£1,435 6 6½
Board of Health	339 0 7	660 15 0½
Treasury Notes	781 12 7	45 8 4
Repayment of part of Loan and Interest	2,107 19 5	—
	£3,770 17 6	£2,141 9 11

Deducting these amounts from the gross expenditure of the respective years will leave the actual expenditure on account of 1857 at 16,476*l.* 6*s.* 11½*d.*, and on account of 1856 at 14,895*l.* 7*s.* 5½*d.*, showing that the real increase in the expenditure in 1857 has been 1,580*l.* 19*s.* 6*d.*

This additional outlay arises from considerable sums having been spent in repairing various churches, in repairing the gaol, and in establishing the volunteer corps, and from a larger expenditure having been incurred in connexion with the public roads.

On the other hand, taking the judicial, civil, legislative, revenue, ecclesiastical, prison and police establishments, there has been a decrease of cost to the amount of 472*l.* 8*s.* 7½*d.*, as compared with 1856.

Public Debt.

The original sum borrowed at the close of 1856 to satisfy liabilities incurred prior to 1855 was 4,450*l.*

Of this amount, 1,935*l.* 10*s.* 9*d.* (besides interest on the whole sum) was paid off during 1857; the sum of 2,514*l.* 9*s.* 3*d.* therefore still remains unpaid.

Of this, all but about 300*l.* will certainly be met during the current year by the special provision made at the time the loan was obtained, and the small balance of about 300*l.* can readily be paid out of the general revenue. I see no reason to doubt, therefore, but that at the close of the present year the entire debt will be cleared off.

Militia.

No militia has been enrolled, but a volunteer corps of about seventy men, under a captain and two lieutenants, has been embodied, chiefly as a means of aiding the police, all the volunteers being sworn in also as special constables.

The corps has been established about six months, and already, on several occasions, has proved of considerable service in preserving the public peace, and in bringing offenders to justice.

Legislation.

Twenty Acts have been passed during the year, some of which are of considerable importance.

The principal ones are, first, an Act reducing the duty of ten per cent. upon ad valorem goods to five per cent. The higher duty had been fixed in 1852, a time of great financial difficulty, when there was a general stagnation of trade, and all the West Indian interests were in a most depressed state, but it was always considered as very oppressive, and as holding out encouragment to fraudulent entries of value; a change, therefore, was only delayed until the colony had retrieved its financial position, and become so far revived in its general prospects as to hold out the hope that a reduction in the ad valorem duty from ten to five per cent. would not materially affect the revenue. The new law making this reduction has now been in operation nearly nine months, and in its results, so far, has fully borne out that hope.

Secondly, Acts for the enrolment of volunteers, and for the appointment of special constables, arrangements to which I have already adverted.

Thirdly, a series of laws for improving the administration of justice, by creating a court of appeal to the judges of the supreme court from convictions or orders of the magistrates, by providing for a circuit court of appeal to be established by Her Majesty for the Windward government from the decisions of the judges of the supreme courts of the respective islands of which that government is composed, and by constituting the chief justice of the colony vice-chancellor, having the same equity jurisdiction as the chancellor, and thus affording to suitors in that court the advantage of having their causes heard before a professionally educated judge.

Fourthly, a series of laws for the encouragement of immigration, including the raising of special funds applicable to that purpose.

Under these enactments an agent has already been despatched to the Azores, to endeavour to make arrangements for procuring labourers from thence.

Fifthly, the re-enactment of a law promoting education, in place of the Act which expired in 1854, and which was not renewed earlier, in consequence of the financial difficulties of the colony, and of the impossibility of providing the necessary funds until 1857.

Political Franchise.

Remains unaltered. There has been no general election since last year's Blue Book report. At the last, held on the 29th January 1856, 211 individuals, out of a population exceeding 30,000, return the whole House of Assembly, although at the time there were more than three times that number of registered voters, and as many more probably might have registered if they had chosen to do so. So much for representative institutions in the West Indies, and the interest taken by the people in their rights, privileges, and powers.

Councils and Assembly.

The admixture of members from the two branches of the legislature in the Executive Council seems to have answered the purpose for which the change was introduced, and to have removed the distrust, jealousy, and want of harmony, which, under the old system, so frequently impeded the useful administration of public affairs.

It would be a great improvement if the introduction of all money votes in the lower house were restricted to being made through some member of the Executive Council, who was also in the Assembly, but as, at present, no practical difficulty arises from the defect, it has not been thought worth while to disturb the unanimity which exists amongst the three branches, by proposing any change.

The Legislative Council and House of Assembly are constituted as last year, with the exception of individual changes. Both are working in perfect harmony with the executive and with each other.

Population Returns.

Cannot in the least be depended upon. There has been no census taken since 1851, and that was imperfect and not to be relied upon.

Education.

Nothing was done out of the colonial revenue during the year 1857 in furtherance of education, beyond the payment of 150*l.* to keep up the poor school in Kingston, and the grant of 70*l.* to the Wesleyans to repair a schoolhouse.

The Wesleyan body receive a considerable annual grant from their missionary committee in England, and thus have been enabled to keep up their schools well, whilst those of the Church of England (which receives no such assistance) have for the most part been closed, in consequence of the withdrawal of state aid since 1854. The schools returned in the present volume as Church of England schools are, therefore, for the most part only Sunday schools.

An Act to promote education was passed late in 1857, in the place of the old Act, which expired in 1854, but no appropriation took place under it during the year.

This year it is being acted upon, and an additional vote has also been obtained, so that at least 1,000*l.* will be applied to the purposes of education.

This is a good and important beginning, and as the finances of the colony are in a satisfactory state, and its prospects most cheering for the future, there is every reason to hope that a gradual and steady progress will henceforward be made in the establishment and support of educational institutions, upon the sufficiency and success of which the best interests and future welfare of the colony so greatly depend.

The Blue Book for 1858 will, I feel persuaded, present very different and more cheering statistics in reference to education.

So also with regard to charitable institutions. During the last three years nothing whatever has been done, and even the colonial hospital itself has for the whole of that period been closed.

I have recently obtained a re-enactment of the Hospital Act, with an enlarged grant, so that during the current year it will be put in repair and be re-opened.

A Bill is also now before the legislature, and I have no doubt of its passing, to provide medical attendance, at the expense of the colony, for all children of the labouring classes throughout the entire government.

These are all cheering indications, not only of the colonial finances being again brought into a healthy state, but of a right feeling and an earnest desire on the part of the colonists themselves to provide for useful or necessary institutions when they have the means of doing so.

The sad interruption which took place during the last three years in providing for such essential and important services must be ascribed entirely to the bankrupt state of the colonial finances, and to the pressure caused by the heavy arrears of unsatisfied liabilities (for which no provision whatever was made when they were incurred), which had been allowed to accumulate up to the close of 1854, when I entered upon the administration of this government. Since then almost every other consideration has been obliged to give way to the paramount one of replacing the finances upon a sound and healthy basis.

This has now been done, and I see no reason to fear any relapse for the time to come.

ST. VINCENT.

Imports and Exports.

	Imports.	Exports.
The total values in 1857 were - - -	£185,203	£220,956
„ 1856 „ - - -	126,104	123,422
Shewing an increase in 1847 of - - -	£59,099	£97,534

This increase in imports is ascribable to increased cultivation and prosperity. It has taken place largely in animals used in agriculture, as asses, cattle, horses, mules; in machinery; in manures; in hardware and ironmongery; in leather; in lime; in lumber and building materials; in shingles; in wood props; in tallow for machinery; in glass; in oil and oil cake; in slates and tiles; in soap, &c., &c., &c. The improved circumstances of the colony have also led to a greater consumption of luxuries, and there has been a considerably increased importation of beer, butter, candles, coffee, fish, linen, cotton and manufactured goods, pickles, refined sugar, tea, gin, tobacco, &c., &c., &c., as well as of articles which are classed as "unenumerated."

The increase of exports is due entirely to increased production, the result of the extended cultivation which took place in the latter part of 1855 and in 1856.

The value of the increased production is little less than 100,000*l.*, and the total value of the exports in 1857 approaches to nearly double the value of the exports in 1856, while it far exceeds double the value of the exports in 1855. The increase has taken place principally in sugar, molasses, and rum, but there has also been a very large increase in the growth of arrow root, for the good quality of which St. Vincent is now becoming well known in the London Market.

The number of vessels and amount of tonnage entering the ports in 1857 are necessarily larger in 1856, in consequence of this increase both in the imports and the exports.

Agriculture.

Has been much extended. The sugar crop of 1857 exceeds by more than one-third the crop of 1856. Rum has also been manufactured to a greater extent. The quantity of molasses has been nearly doubled, and the production of arrow root is about twice what it was in 1856.

There is an equally favourable prospect of augmented crops during the current year.

Sanatory State.

The island during the past year has fully maintained its well deserved reputation of being one of the healthiest as well as one of the loveliest of our tropical possessions.

There has heen no epidemic or general illness of any kind.

Crime.

In 1857 21 prisoners were receive l into gaol for trial before the supreme court, and 13 were convicted.

In 1856 fourteen were received for trial, and eight were convicted, showing a considerable increase of offenders in 1857 in point of numbers. The increase, however, appears by the comparative return inserted in the Blue Book to consist in an augmentation of the number of common assaults. There are also two men convicted of burglary, and two of assault with intent to commit rape. The other offences are very similar to those of last year.

From the magistrates courts 136 offenders (exclusive of debtors) have been committed to gaol in 1857, against 131 in 1856, but out of the 136 were eight white sailors belonging to ships in harbour for refusing to work. The number, therefore, of offenders committed by the justices, who belong to the colony, is less than in 1856, and the offences are lighter, petty larcenies being much fewer in number. Of debtors the number committed is greatly diminished. In 1857 only 36 were imprisoned, against 56 in 1856, showing that the population generally participate in the improved circumstances of the colony, and that there is less pressure upon individuals.

4. On the whole, therefore, I find that the cheerful prospects which began to dawn upon St. Vincent from the close of 1856 have been most fully realized since, that its present position is most satisfactory, and that its future is most promising.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. EYRE.

His Excellency the Governor-in-Chief,
&c. &c. &c.

ABSTRACT RETURNS from BLUE BOOKS 1855, 1856, 1857.

Revenue.

Year.	Customs Duties.			Assessed and other Taxes.	Total.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Import.	Export.	Tonnage.				
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1855 -	8,189	—	1,171	5,097	14,457	—	2,719
1856 -	8,300	—	1,304	8,884	18,488	4,031	—
1857 -	9,276	—	1,480	6,691	17,447	—	1,041

Expenditure, Colonial.

Year.	Civil Government.	Judicial.	Ecclesiastical.	Education.	Police.	Prisons.	Other Expenditure.	Total.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1855 -	2,383	3,481	2,472	152	1,676	933	3,441	14,538	—	3,242
1856 -	2,651	3,719	2,029	137	1,860	866	3,000	14,262	—	276
1857 -	2,666	3,550	2,199	162	1,824	894	6,630	17,925	3,663	—

Expenditure. Local and Parochial.

Year.	Poor.	Roads.	All other Parochial Charges.	Total.	Remarks.
	£	£	£	£	
1855 -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- -	No parochial taxes raised in this island. The expenses for "Roads" are included in "Expenditure, Colonial."
1856 -					
1857 -					

Expenditure, Great Britain.

Year.	Civil.	Military.	Total.	Remarks.
	£			
1855 -	2,770	—	2,770	
1856 -	2,770	—	2,770	
1857 -	2,320	—	2,320	

Population, Estimated.

Year.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Remarks.
1855 -	13,957	16,171	30,128	No Census was taken since the 30th June 1851.
1856 -				
1857 -				

Land.

Years.	Area of Square Miles.	Acreage under Cultivation.	Remarks.
1855 - -	- - -	- - -	No means of ascertaining.
1856 - -			
1857 - -			

Coins and Currency.

Year.	Specie in Circulation.	Notes in Circulation.	Remarks.
1855	- - - -	- - - -	The Notes of the Colonial Bank are in Circulation.—No means of ascertaining the amount.
1856			
1857			

ST. VINCENT.

Churches.

Year.	Church of England.	Other Denominations.	Number of Sittings, Church of England.	Number of Sittings, other Denominations.	Average Attendance Church of England.	Average Attendance, other Denominations.	Centesimal Proportion to the Population.	Remarks.
1855	18	16	4,582	9,760	2,705	7,170		
1856	18	15	4,422	8,260	2,750	6,480	—	—
1857	18	15	4,422	8,260	2,750	6,480		

Schools.

Year.	Church of England.	Other Denominations.	Number of Scholars.	Centesimal Proportion to the Population.	———
1855	658	895	1,553	5·17	
1856	990	970	1,960	6·5	———
1857	859	917	1,776	5·9	

Value in Sterling.

	Imports.				Exports.			
Year.	From Great Britain.	From British Colonies.	From Foreign Countries.	Total.	To Great Britain.	To British Colonies.	To Foreign Countries.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1855	43,536	50,088	18,869	112,493	86,947	14,376	589	101,912
1856	42,024	52,775	31,305	126,104	105,714	16,084	1,623	123,421
1857	97,788	59,423	27,992	185,203	201,423	18,764	769	220,956

Shipping.

	Inwards Tonnage.				Outwards Tonnage.			
Year.	From Great Britain.	From British Colonies.	From Foreign Countries.	Total.	To Great Britain.	To British Colonies.	To Foreign Countries.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1855	5,213	7,970	1,536	14,719	6,219	8,166	2,686	17,071
1856	7,239	10,867	1,678	19,784	6,427	10,123	1,562	18,112
1857	7,881	10,001	2,594	20,476	8,063	9,437	2,835	20,335

Return of Crimes and Offences.

Year.	Felons.	Misdemeanors.	Other Offences.	Total.	Increase.	Decrease.	Centesimal Proportion.	Debtors.
1855	34	105	30	231	96	—	·77	62
1856	14	83	48	200	—	30	·67	56
1857	21	66	68	193	—	8	·64	38

YEAR 1857.—COLONY OF SAINT VINCENT.

No. 1.

RETURN in a Tabular Form, in the last Year in which they can be made up, of the Gross Revenues, under their different Heads, exhibiting the Cost of Collection, and any Deductions made in their Progress to the Public Treasury.

Gross Revenue.

Customs.	Tonnage Dues.	Taxes and Excise.	Fines and Forfeitures.	Fees of Office.	Lighthouse Dues.	Land, and Casual and Territorial.	Canal and Public Works.	Immigrants' Tax.	Interest.	Miscellaneous Receipts.	Gross Amount of Collection.	Cost of Collection.
£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.							£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
9,276 11 3	1,479 19 10	5,666 9 10	806 14 2	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	217 19 9	- - -	1,100 10 4
										Total - -	£17,447 14 10	

Treasury, St. Vincent, March 20, 1858.

J. M. GRANT, Treasurer.

No. 2.

RETURN in a Tabular Form, for the last Year in which they can be made up, of the Disbursements, under their different Heads, showing the Authority under which such Disbursements were made.

Expenditure.

Civil Establishment.	Judicial Establishment.	Ecclesiastical Establishment.	Education.	Pensions.	Police.	Gaols.	Roads.	Expenses of the Legislature.	Hospitals.	Revenue Department, and Drawbacks.	Miscellaneous.	Total.	Authority.
£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
753 6 0	3,550 18 4	2,199 1 10	162 10 0	48 2 6	1,824 0 1½	894 12 9½	1,010 0 0	509 17 2	—	1,402 18 0½	Treasury notes - 781 12 7		
											Military establishment 175 12 0		
											Quarantine expenses 1 0 0		Principally by Acts of the Legislature.
											Loan Act, 1856 - 2,107 19 5	- - -	
											Export Tax Act - 1 17 6		
											Import Tax Act - 59 8 4		
											Agricultural grant - 100 0 0		
											Printing and stationery 286 5 4½		
											Repairs of Public Buildings - 935 3 5¼		By votes of Legislature.
											Public accounts - 542 4 11	- - -	
											Miscellaneous - 241 13 8		
											Board of Health - 339 0 7		
											£5,571 17 10		
											Total - - - £	17,927 4 7½	

Treasury, St. Vincent, March 20, 1858.

J. M. GRANT. Treasurer.

ST. VINCENT.

Revenue.

Year.	Customs Duties.			Assessed and other Taxes.	Judicial Fines.	Miscellaneous.	Total.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Imports.	Tonnage.	Excise.						
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1855 -	8,189 7 11	1,171 10 0	3,661 5 6	702 4 8	648 3 1	86 0 9	14,458 11 11	—	—
1856 -	8,300 1 3	1,304 8 6	3,279 12 6	348 18 3	741 4 4½	4,514 8 10	18,488 13 8½	4,030 1 9½	—
1857 -	9,276 11 3	1,479 19 10	3,460 17 6	2,205 12 4	806 14 2	217 19 9	17,447 14 10	—	1,040 18 10½

Expenditure.

Year.	Civil.	Judicial.	Ecclesiastical.	Education.	Police.	Prisons.	Other Expenditure.	Total.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1855 -	2,383 16 9½	3 481 3 9	2,472 10 3	152 16 3	1,676 19 5½	933 11 9	3,441 4 9½	14,542 3 0½	—	—
1856 -	2,651 17 3	3,719 12 5	2,029 16 11	137 10 0	1,860 18 1½	866 14 3	3,000 8 5	14,266 17 4½	—	275 5 8
1857 -	2,666 1 2½	3,550 18 4	2,199 1 10	162 10 0	1,824 0 1½	894 12 9½	6,630 0 4	17,927 4 7½	3,660 7 3	—

Treasury, St. Vincent, March 23, 1858. J. M. GRANT, Treasurer.

ST. LUCIA.

No. 17.

No. 17.

COPY of DESPATCH from Governor HINCKS to the Right Hon. Sir EDWARD BULWER LYTTON, Bart. M.P.

(No. 34.)

Windward Islands, Barbados, July 7, 1858.
(Received, August 2, 1858.)

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the St. Lucia Blue Book for the year 1857, together with the usual comparative statements and the following Report.

Revenue and Expenditure.

2. The net revenue for 1857 was 13,332*l.* 2*s.* 4*d.*, rather less than that for 1856, which was 13,614*l.* 0*s.* 9*d.* Of this amount 6,150*l.* 10*s.* 4*d.* was raised by import and tonnage duties, and the remainder chiefly by a tax on the consumption of rum and by licences for the sale of spirits. Those items yielded nearly 6,000*l.*

3. The expenditure for the year was 12,599*l.* 10*s.* 9*d.*, being less than that of the preceding by 134*l.* 19*s.* 9*d.* The abolition of the office of Lieutenant Governor, the salary attached to which was an important charge to a colony whose aggregate expenditure is so small, only came into complete effect during the year. There was a consequent saving under this head of 631*l.* 13*s.* 5*d.* There was on the other hand an outlay of 368*l.* for militia clothing, and some of the contingent expenses were in excess of 1856. On the whole the finances of the colony are in a highly satisfactory state.

Local Revenues.

4. The corporation of Castries, the principal town of the colony, raises a revenue by a tax on houses, by water rates, wharfage dues, and market rents, of about 1,150*l.*, which is expended on the streets, wharves, waterworks, and police, and in payment of salaries and printing.

Public Debt.

5. The only debt of the colony is a small loan of 3,000*l.*, raised in 1852 under the Act of the Imperial Parliament, 11 & 12 Vict. cap. 130., and which was used in repairing the roads of the colony. It bears interest at the rate of 4 per cent., and a sinking fund of 2½ per cent. is annually invested in the imperial funds for the redemption of the principal.

6. The colony is moreover entitled to 15,000*l.* out of the imperial loan for immigration purposes. No portion of this money has yet been raised, but the immigration fund is in credit to the amount of about 1,500*l.*, the proceeds of the export tax levied for the payment of the interest and sinking fund.

Public Works.—Roads.

7. The roads of St. Lucia are described to me as being in very bad repair. They are in the aggregate about 100 miles in length, but as the sugar estates are chiefly on the coast and have facilities for shipping the produce in droghers, and as the intercourse between the chief towns of Castries and Soufrière is carried on by water conveyance, the inconvenience of bad roads is felt less than might be supposed.

8. The roads were formerly kept in repair by means of the "corvée" system, and as the proprietors of the estates seem unwilling to submit to taxation on their lands, it has been found necessary to revert to the principle of enforcing the application of the labour of the masses to the maintenance of the roads. I have myself no hope that the experiment will be successful.

9. I learn from Mr. Colonial Secretary Breen, the administrator of the government during my absence, that although the experiment of paying for labour on the roads was unsuccessful in 1853, when the loan of 3,000*l.* was expended, he has had much greater success during the past year in expending the road fund. He reports that several portions of the roads have been efficiently repaired at an expense of about 10*l.* per mile, and he hopes that in a few months the whole of the Roads of the Island will have been put into tolerable repair at an expense of about 1000*l.*

10. I may notice under this head that during the past year the last instalment of the purchase money of the Government buildings was paid off, and that some necessary improvements were commenced, the cost of which will be defrayed out of the revenue of the present year. One stone bridge was rebuilt during the year and another of iron was repaired.

Education.—Religion.

11. The educational policy hitherto pursued in St. Lucia, although not altogether without satisfactory results, is open to objection. The population of the colony is composed chiefly of Roman Catholics. There are eleven parishes, each of which has a Roman Catholic priest, who receives a salary of 100*l.* per annum. There are only two protestant clergymen in the island, both belonging to the Church of England; one at Castries the principal town, and the other at Riviere Doree, which is a small protestant settlement in the interior.

12. Such being the state of religious feeling it is rather extraordinary that St. Lucia should be one of the principal stations for the Mico School Trustees to expend their funds. The Mico institution is conducted on principles very suitable for a protestant population, but which cannot be satisfactorily carried out among Roman Catholics. It is a fundamental rule of the institution that a scripture lesson must be given daily to the pupils; and although, in all probability, if this rule were to be so far modified as to render the attendance on such instruction voluntary on the part of the pupils, the Roman Catholic clergy would still object to mixed education; yet the existence of the rule furnishes a valid ground of objection to the use of the Mico schools.

13. Notwithstanding the objections on the part of the clergy the Mico schools have had considerable success, one cause of which has been that education has been given without charge. Unfortunately, however, the means of the Mico Trustees and of the colony are too limited to afford free education to the children throughout the island; and the practical effect of the system has been to render it difficult, if not impossible, to establish schools on any other principle.

14. My belief is that there is no indisposition on the part of the labouring classes in these colonies to contribute towards the education of their children. On the contrary, I know no country where so large a proportion of the expense of educating the children of the poorer classes is thrown upon themselves.

15. I am not aware that in any of the colonies in this Government there is a tax upon landed property either for the support of religion or education. The contributions from the public revenue fall chiefly upon the consumers of imported articles, that is, on the masses of the people, and the balance is supplied by school fees.

16. In St. Lucia the schools have been maintained by contributions from the public revenue and by the funds of the Mico Trustees, so that there are no fees collected from the parents; but I regret to add that very large numbers of the children are uneducated.

17. In July 1856 I determined, with the concurrence of the Board of Education, to attempt the introduction of a new system. A teacher was obtained from the Irish national establishment in 1857 to take charge of a normal school for teachers, with a model school in connexion therewith. A most excellent selection of a teacher was

ST. LUCIA.

made by the resident commissioner, the Right Honourable Alexander M'Donnell, and the experiment will, I hope, have a favourable trial. There are at present four pupil-teachers receiving instruction from the head teacher, Mr. Sutton, and about 70 pupils are in attendance at the model school. It is to be regretted, however, that it has been deemed inexpedient to make any charge to the pupils.

Legislation.

18. The legislation of the year does not seem to call for much observation. The most important ordinance passed was that to which I have already adverted for repealing the existing laws in respect to roads and bridges, and to make better provision for the formation and keeping in repair of such roads and bridges. The tariff was much simplified, and the duties on some leading articles reduced. The militia ordinance was suspended, a measure which I think on the whole judicious, though I am persuaded that it is highly desirable to have an efficient volunteer corps as well as an organized body of special constables.

Prisoners.—Crime.

19. The returns show a considerable decrease of prisoners as compared with 1856, owing to the unusual number of defaulters in the latter year under the militia and road ordinances. I shall be very much surprised if the new road ordinance has not the effect of swelling the number of prisoners. Such was the effect of a similar measure in Grenada. My experience leads me to think it most unwise to impose taxes on people who have no property on which to levy. The expense of taking persons to a distant gaol and maintaining them in prison will be found to be greater than the amount of the tax.

20. Mr. Breen reports that crimes of an aggravated character are of rare occurrence, the criminal offences being thefts and assaults. Out of 278 persons committed during the year, and among whom there were 95 cases of sickness, there was not a single death—a fact which he justly observes is highly creditable to the medical attendant and to the gaoler.

Agriculture.—Immigration.

21. Owing to the staple product of the colony having for some time back commanded a remunerating price in the market, there has been considerable activity during the year among all classes engaged in agricultural pursuits. The small proprietors have shown that they possess industry and a spirit of enterprise in a remarkable degree. Mr. Breen reports that in Saint Lucia there is great variety in the working and management of the estates; that the failure of some proprietors is as remarkable as the success of others; while the proprietors of some estates have become enriched, others have hardly paid their expenses, and others have done even worse.

22. The main cause of ill success in Saint Lucia, in the opinion of Mr. Breen, is "the want of proper management." He observes, that "it may be laid down as a general rule that estates under the direction of agents or attorneys seldom yield any return."

23. Complaints are made in Saint Lucia, as in many other other colonies, of a great deficiency of labour, and there is great anxiety among the planters for the arrival of the long expected Coolie immigrants. While I readily admit that Saint Lucia has equal claims with her sister colonies to a share of the immigrant labourers, I cannot conceal from myself that the present deficiency of labour is in a great degree the result of unsound policy on the part of the owners of property.

24. The planters in Saint Lucia have discouraged as much as possible the payment of labour by the task, which has been found so advantageous in other colonies. They have adhered to the practice, which I fear is but too general, of paying wages monthly instead of weekly, as in Barbados.

25. But what I consider as the main cause of the abandonment of sugar cultivation on the part of the Creole labourers is the tenure of land. The labourers on a sugar estate in Saint Lucia, and I believe in the colonies generally, can only obtain land on a tenancy at will, or what might perhaps be more properly termed a licence of occupation, from which the occupier can be ejected in the most summary manner. The consequence has been that every industrious labourer has removed from the estates, and obtained land, either by purchase or occasionally by squatting, on which he could be independent, and where he could make improvements for his own benefit.

26. Thus not only have the proprietors lost the labour of the most industrious portion of the population, but that labour has been diverted from the cultivation of the sugar

cane to less profitable products such as provisions the demand for which being limited industry has been discouraged.

27. My belief is, and it is the result of much consideration, that if small allotments had been sold on credit to the labourers on the sugar estates, so that they could have had properties of their own, which they could have improved for the benefit of themselves and their families, not only would the labourers have remained on the estates, but there would have been a vast improvement in the condition of the people.

28. I am well aware that these views will be pronounced visionary and unsound by those who have formed, what I consider, a most erroneous opinion, that the African race will only labour under compulsion. On the other hand they are shared by many who have had good opportunities of becoming acquainted with the labouring classes. I refer especially to the clergy of different denominations, from whom I have frequently had strong representations as to the effect of the tenure of land, not only on the withdrawal of labour from cane cultivation, but on the welfare and morality of the population.

29. I may perhaps be permitted to make a brief quotation from a recent work on the West Indies, by an author of strict impartiality, Dr. Davy, for some years Inspector General of Army Hospitals at this station, in confirmation of the opinions which I have expressed. "So long as the labourers hold their cottages as tenants at will, liable to be "expelled at a day's notice; so long as the planters are insecure of their labour from "day to day; so long as land is apportioned to the labourer in lieu in part or altogether "of money wages, neither the planter nor the labourer is likely to be contented, nor fair "and honest labour attainable."

30. It is satisfactory for me, in closing this report, to be able to state that, on the whole, the colony of Saint Lucia is enjoying a high state of prosperity. The taxes are light, the climate is healthy, the people are industrious and contented, and there are excellent opportunities for the profitable investment of capital.

31. I enclose the annual report of the inspector of prisons, a copy of the gaol regulations, and a report on the Government House or Pavilion, which is at present unoccupied, and I fear likely to fall into decay.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. HINCKS.

The Right Honourable
Sir Edward Bulwer Lytton, Bart. M.P.

Enclosure 1. in No. 17.

Enclosure 1. in No. 17.

ABSTRACT RETURN from BLUE BOOK 1851, 1852, 1853, 1854, 1855, 1856, and 1857.

Revenue.

Year.	Custom Duties.			Assessed and other Taxes and Miscellaneous Revenue.	Total.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Import.	Export.	Tonnage.				
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1851 -	5,147 17 6½	1,760 9 9½	659 7 2	6,083 11 6½	13,651 6 0½	—	—
1852 -	5,752 17 6½	1,846 12 10	664 9 8½	4,696 5 5½	12,960 5 6¼	—	691 0 6¼
1853 -	5,252 3 8	912 15 11	666 14 7	5,690 2 2	12,521 16 4	—	438 9 2¼
1854 -	6,482 3 8	—	744 2 10	6,872 5 9½	14,087 4 6	1,565 8 2	—
1855 -	4,589 9 8	—	647 2 7	6,908 14 7½	12,145 6 10½	—	1,941 17 7½
1856 -	5,833 16 1	—	648 6 10	7,131 17 10	13,614 0 9	1,468 13 10½	—
1857 -	5,565 13 8	—	584 16 8	7,181 12 0	13,332 2 4	—	281 18 5

Expenditure, Colonial.

Year.	Civil Government.	Judicial.	Ecclesiastical.	Poor.	Police.	Prisons.	Other Expenditure.	Total.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1851 -	3,661 13 6¼	2,686 4 7½	1,244 16 3½	240 8 5½	850 10 0	496 3 8	1,952 15 7	11,132 12 2	—	—
1852 -	3,138 0 6	2,850 1 10	1,267 17 2½	385 6 5½	942 8 0	615 7 2¾	2,540 2 2¾	11,689 3 5½	556 11 3½	—
1853 -	3,659 17 10½	2,685 17 1	1,378 4 6½	307 14 3	943 8 0	605 3 0½	2,889 10 1	12,449 14 10½	760 11 5	—
1854 -	3,641 0 6	3,116 2 4	1,396 4 11	436 18 6	987 4 0	782 1 5½	3,205 9 8	13,565 1 4½	1,115 6 6	—
1855 -	3,607 9 2	2,793 13 6	1,466 3 2	312 17 7	962 16 0	814 16 8	4,833 12 10	14,791 8 11	704 4 5	—
1856 -	3,234 15 9	2,843 11 3	1,414 15 9	397 14 11	945 9 4	1,082 4 11	2,815 18 7	12,734 10 6	—	2,056 18 5
1857 -	3,606 11 4	3,051 11 1	1,270 8 7	466 1 6	1,022 2 8	974 14 8	2,208 0 11	12,599 10 9	—	134 19 9

ST. LUCIA.

Expenditure, Local and Parochial.

Year.	Education.	Roads.	All other Parochial Charges.	Total.	Remarks.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
1851 -	853 6 1½	- - -	838 1 5	1,691 7 6	
1852 -	1,105 0 0	489 11 6	1,167 9 10	2,762 1 4	
1853 -	1,070 18 9½	3,126 4 11½	1,281 5 8	5,478 9 5	
1854 -	1,156 18 7	292 10 2	1,293 9 11	2,742 18 8	
1855 -	870 12 3	550 15 7	1,132 11 10	2,553 17 8	
1856 -	1,267 4 6½	778 1 7	1,352 4 6	3,897 10 7½	
1857 -	1,137 3 6	1,086 19 3	1,149 4 5	3,373 7 2	

Expenditure, Great Britain.

Year.	Civil.	Military.	Total.	Remarks.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
1851 -	1,816 18 9	13,317 16 5	15,134 15 2	
1852 -	1,749 19 0	12,705 19 7	14,455 18 0	
1853 -	1,775 4 4	13,033 16 2	14,809 0 6	
1854 -	1,754 10 4	14,768 4 7	16,522 14 11	
1855 -	1,477 0 0	13,712 0 7	15,189 0 7	
1856 -	1,477 0 0	16,451 9 1	17,928 9 1	
1857 -	1,477 0 0	12,080 19 4	13,557 19 4	

Population.

Year.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Remarks.
1851 -	11,763	12,527	24,290	
1852 -	11,749	12,601	24,350	
1853 -	12,034	12,973	25,007	
1854 -	11,511	12,612	24,123	
1855 -	11,931	13,299	25,230	
1856 -	12,136	13,581	25,717	
1857 -	12,057	13,250	25,307	

Land.

Year.	Area in Square Miles.	Acreage under Cultivation.	Remarks.
1851 -	Unknown -	4,077	
1852 -	Do. -	4,674	
1853 -	Do. -	6,103½	
1854 -	Do. -	4,628	
1855 -	Do. -	5,306½	
1856 -	Do. -	5,387½	
1857 -	Do. -	4,666¼	

Coins and Currency.

Year.	Specie in Circulation.	Notes in Circulation.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1851 -	Unknown - —	Estimated at - 5,208 0 0
1852 -	Do. - - —	Do. - - 4,166 13 4
1853 -	Estimated at - 10,500 0 0	Do. - - 4,166 13 4
1854 -	Do. - - 10,600 0 0	Do. - - 4,180 0 0
1855 -	Do. - - 10,600 0 0	Do. - - 5,208 6 8
1856 -	Do. - - 12,000 0 0	Do. - - 5,208 6 8
1857 -	Do. - - 15,000 0 0	Do. - - 7,291 13 4

Churches.

Year.	Church of England.	Other Denominations.	No. of Sittings.	Average Attendance.	Per Cent. in Population.	Remarks.
1851 -	3	10	5,932	7,650	31 63/00	
1852 -	3	10	5,982	8,000	33 7/00	
1853 -	3	10	6,575	8,455	33 81/00	
1854 -	3	9	5,550	7,550	31 28/00	
1855 -	3	9	6,892	7,835	31 50/00	
1856 -	2	10 and 1 Chapel	7,090	7,960	32 91/00	
1857 -	2	10 and 1 Chapel	6,441	7,430	30 72/00	

Schools.

Year.	Church of England.	Other Denominations.	Total No. of Scholars.	Per Cent. on Population.	Remarks.
1851 -	10	5	904	3·73/00	Centesimal Proportions calculated according to Population Census taken in 1850.
1852 -	11	9	1,117	4·61/00	
1853 -	20	2	1,393	5·16/00	
1854 -	18	4	1,243	5·14/00	
1855 -	13	5	1,052	4·34/00	
1856 -	12	4	1,072	4·42/00	
1857 -	12	4	1,147	4·74/00	

Imports. *Exports.*

VALUE IN STERLING.

Year.	From Great Britain.	From British Colonies.	From Foreign Countries.	Total.	To Great Britain.	To British Colonies.	To Foreign Countries.	Total.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1851 -	22,179 3 7	29,612 4 9	17,089 17 7	68,881 5 11	45,699 6 6	8,005 18 11	1,180 0 0	54,815 5 5
1852 -	38,508 16 8	25,800 10 8	16,691 15 3	81,002 2 7	46,553 9 8	7,037 18 8	3,619 2 8	57,210 11 0
1853 -	26,001 2 8	27,350 5 9	19,298 17 11	72,650 6 4	46,438 9 8	7,930 14 7	2,635 8 7	57,004 12 10
1854 -	41,966 8 9	27,879 2 11	26,432 19 4	96,278 11 0	46,004 16 5	6,668 1 0	3,163 11 3	55,836 8 8
1855 -	12,831 0 9	22,188 14 7	20,494 9 9	55,514 4 6	47,508 12 10	2,689 19 6	4,781 13 4	54,980 5 8
1856 -	23,312 8 8	38,323 12 11	30,264 19 5	91,901 1 0	61,283 7 2	4,571 11 4	4,629 5 6	70,484 4 0
1857 -	21,550 6 8	39,202 19 6	29,310 19 6	90,064 5 8	90,141 12 3	4,657 7 10	5,104 7 2	99,903 7 3

Shipping.

	INWARDS.				OUTWARDS.			
Year.	From Great Britain.	From British Colonies.	From Foreign Countries.	Total.	To Great Britain.	To British Colonies.	To Foreign Countries.	Total.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
1851 -	2,810	5,364	1,851	10,025	3,548	4,287	2,015	9,850
1852 -	3,178	4,870	3,109	11,157	3,930	4,830	2,471	11,231
1853 -	2,226	4,333	3,190	9,749	3,799	4,125	2,352	10,276
1854 -	3,525	5,743	3,205	12,471	3,434	2,468	5,460	11,362
1855 -	1,392	3,595	2,579	7,566	3,883	5,308	4,594	13,785
1856 -	2,324	3,237	3,418	8,979	3,452	3,527	2,403	9,382
1857 -	2,365	4,158	2,768	9,291	2,975	4,707	1,678	9,360

Return of Criminal and other Prisoners.

Year.	Men.	Women.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Increase.	Decrease.	Debtors
1851 -	239	69	3	5	316	—	—	—
1852 -	221	39	3	2	265	—	51	—
1853 -	149	55	2	—	206	—	59	—
1854 -	178	21	2	—	201	—	5	—
1855 -	221	36	2	—	259	53	—	3
1856 -	351	23	3	—	377	118	—	3
1857 -	213	60	5	—	278	—	99	6

Government Office,
St. Lucia.

GEORGE M. M'LEOD,
Chief Clerk.

ST. LUCIA.

Enclosure 2. in No. 17.

Enclosure 2 in No. 17.

ANNUAL REPORT of the INSPECTOR of PRISONS, ST. LUCIA, for 1857.

Special Justice's Office, Castries, 1st District,
January 15th 1858.

THE royal gaol of Castries is the only prison in St. Lucia; it is a substantial edifice in masonry, is commodious and well ventilated; it measures 75 in length and 36 feet in width, and has an open gallery along the whole front of nine feet in width. The prison is surrounded on three sides by high walls, and on the fourth by a wall four feet high surmounted by an iron railing. The Ordnance Department have, however, granted the colony a space of land of 86 feet by 18 feet adjoining this wall and railing, which were found quite insufficient for keeping the prisoners in, if they could escape the vigilance of the officer for a couple of minutes, and a wall to be 12 feet high is now being built; as soon as it is completed the old wall and railing are to be removed. There are four separate yards within the walls for exercise, &c. There are also within the walls an hospital, a house and kitchen for the gaoler, a store-room and a building containing two large airy cells, which were formerly used for the confinement of maniacs, but which since a lunatic asylum has been established in Castries have been made use of for the confinement of juvenile offenders; there is also a privy, through which water is continually running. In the front or main yard there is a large reservoir, into and out of which there is always flowing a copious supply of excellent water.

The prison is capable of containing 130 prisoners, with complete separation of the sexes. There were 278 prisoners confined during the year, whilst in 1856 there were 377. This decrease is to be ascribed in a great measure to the diminution of imprisonment under the militia and road ordinances, although there appears to have been nearly double the number of convictions for felonies in 1857 to that of 1856; in 1856 the number being 34, and in 1857, 65.

There are nine wards on the upper floor of the gaol, 16 feet by 13 feet. Two of these are reserved for the confinement of debtors, one used as a day room, and one is occupied by the turnkey. The attic is divided into three large rooms, in which the female prisoners are kept. On the ground floor there are ten cells, which are clean, commodious, and well-ventilated.

Prisoners under sentence receive two suits of clothes per annum. No bedding whatever is supplied. The prisoners in the cells on the ground floor have raised trestles on which they sleep, those in the upper wards, generally parties for trial or who have been sentenced to imprisonment only, sleep on the floor.

The diet consists of half a pound of salt fish and half a pot of farine manioc, or its equivalent of bread or flour, per diem. Debtors receive an alimentary allowance from the incarcerating creditor; and soldiers imprisoned under sentence of courts-martial pay sixpence per diem for their rations.

The hours of labour of the penal gang are from 6 to 9 A.M. and from 10 A.M. to 5 P.M.; the hours within the walls are from 6 to 10 A.M. and from 2 to 6 P.M. The work of the penal gang is not fixed, they being employed in all kinds of work, within a reasonable distance of the prison.

There is no regular chaplain appointed to the prison, but clergymen and religious teachers of all persuasions have free access to the prisoners during the hours appointed by the regulations. There is no chapel in the gaol nor any suitable apartment for the performance of divine service. The day-room is used when any clergyman desires to teach the prisoners, who are separated in the best manner the size of the apartment will permit. Very nearly the whole of the prisoners during the year were Roman Catholics. The Protestant minister visited the prison 16 times during the year, the Roman Catholic priest but once.

The surgeon visits the gaol daily, and also attends whenever called by the keeper: he keeps a journal, in which is inserted the name of each sick prisoner, with the nature of the disease, the treatment or medicines prescribed, and the result of the case. 95 cases are reported as having been taken into hospital during the year: there was no death. The most prevalent diseases were fever, ulcers, diarrhœa, and ophthalmia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. H. JENNINGS,
Sp. J., 1 D., and Insp. of Prisons.

Enclosure 3. in No. 17.

Enclosure 3. in No. 17.

RULES and REGULATIONS for the Conduct of the ROYAL GAOL of ST. LUCIA, as revised and amended by his Excellency Lieutenant-Governor POWER in Council, on the 10th of October 1854.

INSPECTOR OF PRISONS.

1. The inspector of prisons nominated under the Imperial Act of 1 & 2 Vict. cap. 67. shall visit the prison at least once in every week at uncertain periods.

2. He is empowered to call before him the keeper and all subordinate officers of the prison, and to require them to produce prisoners and books, papers and documents, whenever he shall think fit.

3. It shall be the duty of the inspector to inquire into every matter connected with the gaol; and whenever he may consider it necessary, to make a special report thereon to the Lieutenant-Governor.

THE KEEPER.

4. The keeper shall reside within the gaol. He shall not be allowed to sell any articles to prisoners, or have any interest in any contract for supplying provisions, or otherwise.

5. The keeper is on no account himself to employ or allow the matron or other officer to employ prisoners for any purpose, except such menial service as may be permitted by the provost marshal general.

6. He shall exercise his authority with firmness, temper, and humanity, abstain from all irritating language, and never strike a prisoner. He shall enforce similar conduct on the part of the subordinate officers of the prison.

7. He shall enforce a high degree of cleanliness in the prison, as well with respect to the buildings and yards as to the persons and clothing of the prisoners.

8. It shall be the duty of the keeper to take care that the apartments of the gaol be washed every Wednesday and Saturday morning, except in wet weather, and that the prison be swept and cleaned twice in each day, and also that the walls of the passages and wards of the prison are whitewashed once every two months.

9. On the death of a prisoner, the keeper shall immediately give notice to the coroner of the district, and, if practicable, to the relations of the deceased.

10. The keeper of the prison shall keep two books, one a diary and the other a register, according to forms approved by the provost marshal and sanctioned by the Lieutenant-Governor, in which books shall be entered the name of each prisoner, the date of commitment, the personal description, trade, or calling, the time for which committed, by whose order, the nature of offence, the sentence passed, the punishment inflicted, and the day of release, with remarks.

11. The keeper shall not receive any person as a prisoner into the royal gaol without a formal sentence or commitment in writing, in which the cause of committal or sentence shall be expressly stated, except persons brought in by the police for safe custody, until they can be taken before a magistrate, and persons so brought in for safe custody shall not be detained longer than is necessary for that purpose, such period of detention in no case to exceed 24 hours.

12. The keeper, on receiving any person as a prisoner under a committal (whether for trial, under sentence, or otherwise), shall take particular care that such prisoner is disposed of according to the classification established by the 19th rule.

13. The keeper shall make a round of the prison every night at eight o'clock, and shall carefully inspect the several prisoners.

14. Besides the specific duties enumerated, the keeper will consider himself generally responsible for the due execution of all regulations respecting the safe keeping, classification, discipline, and treatment of prisoners.

THE SURGEON.

15. The surgeon attached to the gaol shall visit the prisons daily, and also attend whenever called upon by the keeper.

16. The surgeon shall keep a journal or record in which shall be inserted the name of each sick prisoner, with the nature of the prisoner's disease, and the treatment or medicines prescribed, and the result of the case, and remarks.

17. The surgeon will deliver to the provost marshal general and to the inspector of prisons, at the close of every year, a report in writing, upon the general state of health of the prisoners during the past year, and specifying the disorders which have been most prevalent, and stating whether any connexion may in his opinion be traced between the diseases which have occurred and the locality or state of the building, diet or employment of the prisoners, or any other facts which have come under his notice; also the number of deaths, and the proportion of sick to the average number of prisoners during the year.

CLASSIFICATION, TREATMENT, AND DISCIPLINE OF PRISONERS.

Classification.

18. Female prisoners shall be kept apart from the male prisoners, so as to prevent them from seeing, conversing, or holding any intercourse with each other; and female prisoners shall at all times be attended by female officers, and separated among themselves as much as possible, in conformity with the rules established for male prisoners.

19. Male prisoners in gaol shall be classified as follows:

First. Prisoners for debt.

Second. Persons committed for contempt of court in civil process, or for want of securities, or to be examined as witnesses in behalf of the Crown in any prosecution.

Third. Persons committed for trial on suspicion of misdemeanours, and for petty offences, and as vagrants.

Fourth. Persons committed on charge of theft, or felony of any description.

Fifth. Prisoners convicted of misdemeanours.

Sixth. Prisoners convicted of theft, or of felony of any description.

20. All persons, on admission as prisoners, shall be strictly searched, and knives or other sharp or dangerous weapons be taken from them, and their clothing and bedding shall be likewise examined. Such personal examination, as regards female prisoners, to be made by or under the superintendence of the matron, and to be executed by females, and in the presence of the matron alone.

21. Prisoners convicted of felony shall be restricted to the back yard of the prison during the hours of exercise.

ST. LUCIA.

22. That the hours of airing or exercise of prisoners confined as debtors be limited and arranged so as they may not be at large at the same time with the other prisoners.

Treatment.

23. Provisions of good, sound, and wholesome quality, will be issued by the keeper to each prisoner daily, and without distinction, according to the tariff hereunto annexed.

24. Under no pretence whatever shall any money or spirits or other article be issued to any prisoner in lieu of provisions, unless by an express order in writing of the surgeon.

25. No wine, spirits, or strong waters shall be permitted to be introduced into the gaol under any pretence whatsoever, except under an order in writing by the surgeon.

26. No extra food shall be allowed to any prisoner without a written order to that effect of the surgeon or the provost marshal general.

27. All prisoners sick or unable to work shall be removed to the hospital.

28. If a prisoner complains of illness, the case shall be reported without delay to the surgeon, and no prisoner so complaining is to be compelled to labour until after the surgeon has seen and given directions respecting such prisoner.

29. Every convicted prisoner shall receive clothing of two shirts, two pairs trowsers, and a woollen cap, per annum, or proportionably to the term of his imprisonment. Female prisoners to receive an equivalent in quality and quantity.

30. All inmates of the gaol shall be locked up by seven o'clock in the evening.

31. No light shall be permitted to the prisoners in gaol after eight o'clock in the evening.

32. The hours allotted for exercise shall be regulated as follows:—

For male prisoners—from 10 to 12 A.M.
For female prisoners—from 12 to 2 P.M.

Discipline.

33. Prisoners in the gaol shall not be allowed to smoke or to make use of tobacco in any way.

34. Gambling of any description whatever will not be permitted within the gaol.

35. Writing on or defacing the doors or walls of the prison is strictly prohibited.

36. Sentence to hard labour shall be carried into effect by work in the penal gang, or in breaking stones within the precincts of the gaol, or in other task-works suited to the craft or trade of any prisoner. Washing and cleaning the prison and gaol-yard to be performed by convicted prisoners; and silence is to be enjoined and enforced at every description of work.

37. The hours of labour for the penal gang shall be from 6 to 9 A.M., and from 10 A.M. to 5 P.M.

38. The hours of labour within the prison yard shall be from 6 to 10 A.M., and from 2 to 6 P.M.

39. Convicts in the penal gang, whose refractory conduct renders the restraint of fetters necessary for their safe keeping while employed on public works without the prison walls, shall be secured by chains similar to those used for such convicts in England.

40. All contumacious or disorderly conduct of prisoners (whether by refusing or neglecting to perform their work, or by wilful damage to or mismanagement of it,) and all offences, such as disobedience of the prison rules, assaults by prisoners on each other or on any officer of the establishment, abusive and profane language, indecent or irreverent behaviour during divine service or religious teaching, may be inquired into by a visiting justice to be from time to time appointed by the Lieutenant-Governor, who may in any such case order the offender to be punished with solitary confinement, for any time not exceeding six days; and in any flagrant case of violent or refractory conduct, the prisoner so offending may be ordered by him to be whipped, such punishment not to exceed thirty-six lashes for each offence.

41. No punishment whatever shall be carried into effect without the express sanction of the Lieutenant-Governor.

42. The punishment of whipping, when inflicted, shall be carried into effect within the gaol, in presence of the provost marshal general, the medical officer, and the keeper of the gaol.

43. In all cases of whipping, a medical examination and certificate of the capability of the prisoner to endure the punishment shall precede its infliction.

44. Punishments by whipping shall take place before the hour of six in the morning, unless otherwise ordered, or the special nature of the case require a departure from this rule.

VISITS TO AND COMMUNICATIONS FOR AND FROM PRISONERS.

Visits.

45. Prisoners not convicted of, or charged with, any criminal offence, may be allowed to receive visitors between the hours of 7 and 10 A.M. and 2 and 6 P.M., unless the provost marshal general or inspectors of prisons shall have issued an order to the contrary, in which case the name of the applicant, together with the name of the prisoner and date of refusal, must be entered on the journal of the gaol.

46. Prisoners, while under commitment for examination or re-examination, shall not be allowed the access of legal adviser or friends, except by authority of the committing magistrate, and under such restrictions as to him shall seem requisite.

47. Visitors, except clergy or counsel, shall not be admitted or allowed to remain within the prison during the hours set apart for the exercise and recreation of the prisoners.

48. Visitors, previous to admission, shall give their names and the name of the prisoner or prisoners whom they wish to visit.

49. The names of all visitors, and of the prisoners whom they visit, shall be inserted in a book to be kept for that purpose.

50. Prisoners under conviction shall not be allowed to receive the visits of their friends or relations until after the expiration of the first three months of their imprisonment; but subsequently to that period, they may see their friends or relations once in the course of each successive three months.

51. In cases of sickness, or other special circumstances, however, convicted prisoners and prisoners committed for nonpayment of penalties or for want of sureties, may receive the visits of their relations and friends at other times, subject to the general regulations of the prison, and provided that such special circumstances be entered in the journal kept by the g oler for recording the names of visitors and the name of the prisoner to whom such visit is made.

Communications.

52. Parcels or letters shall not be delivered to or sent by any prisoner under crimiral sentence, until they have been inspected by the keeper; and in case any improper communication be attempted to be made to or by any prisoner, the keeper shall withhold such parcel or letter until he has the direction of the provost marshal general, who may dispose of the same as he may think fit.

53. Books or newspapers shall not be admitted into the gaol, except such as shall be deemed proper for the religious and moral instruction of the prisoners, to be approved of by the provost marshal general, except in the case of debtors, who shall be allowed to receive books, papers, and letters.

MISCELLANEOUS.

54. No insane person, as such, to be admitted into the prison.

Tariff of Provisions for Prisoners in Gaol.

Each male and female adult prisoner shall receive daily rations of ½ lb. salt fish (cod fish,) ½ pot farine manioc or 1½ lbs. of bread.

Allowance for Debtors.

1st Class.—Debtors incarcerated in virtue of a decree issuing from the royal court — one shilling sterling per diem.

2d Class.— Petty debt court, 7½*d.* per diem.

3d Class.—Justice of the peace court — the ordinary gaol rations in kind, the incarcerating creditor being required to deposit in the hands of the gaoler, the value of the rations at the rate at which they are furnished.

Done and passed in Council, this 10th day of October 1854.

R. G. M'HUGH,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

Enclosure 4. in No. 17.

REPORT of the PAVILION COMMITTEE, ST. LUCIA, for the Year 1857.

Enclosure 4. in No. 17.

The pavilion has remained unoccupied during the year 1857. A married soldier from the 41st regiment had been told off by direction of his Excellency Sir A. J. Clöete, commanding Her Majesty's forces, for the purpose of taking care of the premises, and has occupied a portion of the outbuildings.

The pavilion being constructed wholly of wood requires constant repair; and the committee beg respectfully to submit for consideration whether measures should not be taken either towards making the building serviceable or disposing of it.

(Signed) R. G. M'HUGH, H. M. Treasurer.
JAMES MACFARLANE, M.C.

Enclosure 5. in No. 17.

Enclosure in No. 17.

INVENTORY of the FURNITURE, the PROPERTY of the COLONY, in the PAVILION.

Drawing Room.

Two sofas.
Four card tables.
Two sofa tables.
Seventeen drawing-room chairs.
One bronze three-light chandelier.

Dining Room.

One large side-board.
Two small ditto.
One telescope table and leaves.
One side table.
Twenty-three dining-room chairs.
One celaret.

Office and Gallery.

One ottoman.
Two small tables.
Two easy chairs.
One writing table.
Two office tables.
Eleven chairs.
One small press.
One large armoire.

First Bed Room.

One bedstead and mattress and netting.
One chest of drawers.
One armoire.

ST. LUCIA.

Second Bed Room.

One bedstead, mattress, and netting.
One chest of drawers.
One dressing table.
One washhand stand.
Ewer, basin, and chamber.
One looking glass.

Third Bed Room.

One bedstead, mattress, and netting.
One dressing table.
One washhand stand.
Ewer, basin, and chamber.
One commode.
One looking-glass.

Fourth Bed Room.

One bedstead, mattress, and netting.
One chest of drawers.
One washhand stand.
Ewer, basin, and chamber.
One looking-glass.
One dressing table.
One common table.
Two bidets.

Miscellaneous.

One chest of drawers.
One washhand stand.
One ewer, basin, and chamber.
One dressing table.
One looking-glass.
One commode.

Sundries.

One eight-day clock.
Sixteen common chairs (damaged).
Twenty barrel shades.
Three iron bedsteads; eight side shades.
Three deal tables.
One small mattress.
Five screens.

(Signed) R. G. M'HUGH,
Her Majesty's Treasurer at St. Lucia, in charge of Works and Buildings.

ANTIGUA.

ANTIGUA.

No. 18.

No. 18.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor HAMILTON to the Right Hon. Sir E. B. LYTTON, Bart.

(No. 75.)

Leeward Islands, Antigua,
July 3, 1858.
(Received August 2, 1858.)

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward the Blue Book of Antigua for the year 1857.

The past year was not marked by events of any importance to the island; and, indeed, when these occur, they form the subject of correspondence at the time, as has been the case in the present year, and cannot be reserved for remarks in the report accompanying the annual Blue Book.

Revenue.

The total revenue in 1856 was 36,693*l.*, compared with 34,219*l.* in 1857, showing a decrease of 2,474*l.*; but such decrease is more apparent than real. The difference on the tonnage and tariff duties, from which sources the revenue of the colony is principally derived, is not more than may at any time be caused by ordinary fluctuations in trade. The excess caused in 1856 by the issue of 3,823*l.* treasury bills for loans raised to meet temporary exigencies, and the assistance afforded to the revenue in 1857 by 2,693*l.*, the sum derived from the sale of military stores, should fairly be left out of any comparison between the two years, and makes the actual decrease 1,344*l.*

Expenditure.

The expenditure for 1857 is in excess of that for 1856. Although part of the increase is caused by the redemption of local liabilities to the extent of 3,150*l.*, yet 3,350*l.* have been appropriated to the repair of public buildings, and 1,903*l.* to the support of public institutions, beyond what was required for these purposes in 1856; and an item for education grants of 250*l.* appears for the first time in the public accounts.

Legislation.

The Acts deserving special notice are the "Education Act," "Law of Evidence," "Criminal Justice," "Public Health Act," and the Act "for reorganizing the Treasury Department."

Education.

This return does not show any increased number of schools, nor any great difference in the number of pupils; but it is the first return since the passing of the Education Act, and time has not been afforded for any decided result from that measure.

Grants are made by the board of education to schools on behalf of which an application for aid has been made by the managers or superintendent.

The conditions on which such assistance may be obtained are stated by the Education Act to be:—

1. The daily average attendance must not be less than 20.
2. The Christian religion must be taught.

The board may, in its discretion, make grants without reference to the expenditure; but the general rule is, that the board will grant to each school 6*d.* per head per quarter for each child in average attendance; and in addition to this, one third of the cost of maintaining the school during the quarter.

Annexed is a return from the inspector, of schools receiving aid, and the amount of such aid respectively. Enclosure 1.

The training schools of the Moravian Establishment and Mico Institution, from the principles on which they are conducted, are valuable auxiliaries to education, and diffuse among these colonies a class of teachers who by their religious character and acquirements will work a great benefit among the native population. Having lately visited the Mico Institution, I was much pleased with the efficient mode of instruction, the state of proficiency of the students, and the entire establishment. I enclose a letter from the respectable superintendent, Mr. Sidney Stead, with an account of the normal school, and abstract of returns of teachers trained in the institution during the last 20 years. Enclosure 2.

It would be of advantage to the West Indies if more publicity were given to the nature and value of this institution.

Murrain.

During the year 1857 a murrain prevailed among the cattle on the plantations, which was at first attributed to poison, but that conjecture, on careful inquiry, was shown to be without foundation; and the disease, baffling human skill, is rightly ascribed to atmospheric and other natural causes. The want of sufficient pasture and good water is among the causes. I enclose a report from Dr. Adam Nicholson, M.D., with remarks on the progress, symptoms, and pathology of the disease, which are worthy of observation. Enclosure 3.

Want of Pure Water.

It is surprising that human and animal life is supported in any degree of health in an island in which there is not one running stream, and where art is so little applied in preserving water. This immediately attracts the observation of persons coming to this island; and the chief justice called the public attention to the subject, as connected with the high rate of mortality, in a charge to the grand jury, of which I enclose a copy. Enclosure 4.

Population.

The returns and reports of the registrar-general for 1857 are annexed. Enclosure 5.

I have, &c.

(Signed) KER B. HAMILTON.

The Right Hon. Sir E. B. Lytton, Bart.
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure 1 in No. 18.

An Abstract of the Returns for the Quarter ending December 31st, 1857.

No.	Name or Locality.	Kind.	Number of Teachers.	Average Number on List.	Average Attendance per Day.	Average Attendance per Cent.	Number who attended 40 Days.	Number per Cent. who attended 40 Days.	Average Number of Days per Week attended by each Child.	Expenditure. Salaries.	Books and Maps.	Apparatus.	Total.	School Fees.	Receipts in the Island. Grants from Board of Education.	Total Receipts.
										£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
CHURCH SCHOOLS.																
1	Cathedral	Juvenile Boys	1	50	31	62	14	28	3·1	14 17 0	—	1 12 0	16 9 0	1 7 0	6 5 2	7 12 2
2	Rectory	Infant G. & B.	2	121⅓	65 29/57	54	59	48·6	2·7	10 4 6	—	6 13 0	16 17 6	0 4 6	7 5 2	7 9 8
3	Point School	Girls	1	39⅓	21	53·4	14	35·6	3·3	3 13 4	—	—	3 13 4	0 13 4	1 14 11	2 8 3
4	Gray's Farm	Mixed	1	63⅓	36 4/57	58	23	33	2·7	4 11 4	—	—	4 11 4	1 11 4	2 8 5	3 19 9
5	St. Luke's	,,	2	32	21 23/57	67	12	37·5	2·9	3 12 6	—	1 16 0	5 8 6	0 10 6	2 6 8	2 17 2
6	St. James'	,,	1	93	51	54·8	40	43	2·8	6 10 10	—	1 4 0	7 14 10	1 0 10	3 17 1	4 17 11
7	Falmouth	,,	1	55	38·75	70·4	34	62	3·5	4 2 10	—	—	4 2 10	0 16 4	2 6 7	3 2 11
8	English Harbour	,,	2	65⅔	35	53·3	30	45·6	2·6	10 5 0	—	—	10 5 0	0 1 4	4 5 10	4 7 2
9	Valley Chapel	,,	2	64⅓	34	52·8	16	24·9	2·5	11 3 6	—	—	11 3 6	6 3 6	4 11 6	10 15 0
10	St. Mary's, Old Road	,,	1	No Return sent into the Board.						—	—	—	—	—	2 0 0	—
11	All Saints	,,	1	72⅓	52	71·9	52	71·9	3·6	6 7 8	0 10 0	2 8 0	9 5 8	3 17 8	4 7 10	8 5 6
			15	656⅓	386	58·8	294	39·7	3 nearly	75 8 6	0 10 0	18 13 0	89 11 6	16 5 4	41 9 2	57 14 6
MORAVIAN SCHOOLS.																
1	Spring Gardens	Juvenile B. & G.	2	151⅓	106	70	120	79·3	3·5	13 4 0	1 0 0	—	14 4 0	9 11 6	7 7 8	16 19 2
2	,,	Infant	2	129	76½	59·3	55	42·5	2·9	5 14 0	0 12 0	—	6 6 0	3 12 8	4 0 0	7 12 8
3	Newfield	,,	1	60	30	50	—	—	2·4	—	—	—	4 4 0	0 13 4	2 3 0	2 16 4
4	,,	Juvenile	1	79	41⅓	52·3	21	26·6	2·6	—	—	—	6 0 0	1 14 6	3 0 6	4 15 0
5	Lebanon	Mixed	3	204⅓	160	79·9	180	88	3·4	—	—	—	9 16 0	7 17 3	7 5 4	15 2 7
6	Cedarhall	Juvenile	2	67⅔	39	58	39	58	2·9	8 10 8	—	—	8 10 8	3 15 0	3 16 4	7 11 4
7	,,	Infant	1	141⅔	62	45·8	62	45·8	2·2	4 5 0	—	—	4 5 0	2 4 4	2 19 4	5 3 8
8	Green Bay	Mixed	2	200⅔	138·7	68·6	153	76·2	3·4	10 17 6	—	—	10 17 6	8 19 0	7 1 6	16 0 6
9	Pygott's Village	Infant	1	63	34	54	14	22·2	2·8	2 6 4	—	—	2 6 4	1 12 4	1 12 5	3 4 9
10	Five Islands	Mixed	1	62⅔	42	67	30	44·9	3·3	Not returned separately.	—	—	5 17 0	2 18 8½	3 0 0	5 18 8½
11	Gracehill	Juvenile	1	80	55	68·7	36	45	3·5		—	—	4 18 0	2 2 6	3 0 2	5 2 8
12	,,	Infant	2	79⅓	53	66·8	34	47	3·3		—	—	7 4 0	3 1 2	3 14 6	6 15 8
13	Barn's Hill	,,	1	50⅔	24¼	48·1	12	23·3	2·4		—	—	2 16 6	1 2 6	1 10 10	2 13 4
14	Grace Field	Mixed	2	97⅔	71	72	72	73·7	3·6		—	—	7 18 0	4 5 7	4 8 2	8 13 9
15	Grace Bay	,,	1	108	66	61·1	50	46·3	3	8 8 0	0 18 0	—	9 6 0	4 4 5	4 15 0	8 19 5
16	Urlin's Village	Infant	1	52	28	54	12	23	2·7	2 8 0	—	—	2 8 0	1 6 6	1 10 0	2 16 6
			24	1,627	926·9	57	890	54·7	3	—	2 10 0	—	106 17 0	59 1 3½	61 4 9	120 6 0½
WESLEYAN SCHOOLS.																
1	Parham	Mixed	2	119	74½	62·4	54	45·4	3·1	12 12 0	—	—	12 12 0	2 11 6½	6 1 0	8 12 6½
2	Freemanville	,,	1	86⅔	49	58·8	15	17·3	2·9	9 0 0	—	—	9 0 0	1 13 7	4 4 6	5 18 1
3	Free Town	,,	2	112⅓	66⅗	59·2	29	25·8	2·9	12 0 0	—	—	12 0 0	3 3 10	5 13 0	8 16 10
4	Sion Hill	,,	1	48⅓	21	43·4	—	—	2·1	3 10 0	—	—	3 10 0	0 16 1½	1 13 10	2 9 11½
5	Bethesda	,,	2	114	71	62·3	83	72·8	3·4	10 10 0	0 7 6	—	10 17 6	2 16 8	5 8 0	8 4 8
6	Sawcolts	,,	1	No Return. Average Attendance under 20.						—	—	—	—	—	—	—
			9	480⅓	281·1	58·5	181	37·7	2·9	47 12 0	0 7 6	—	47 19 6	11 1 9	23 0 4	34 2 1
PRESBYTERIAN AND PRIVATE SCHOOLS.																
1	Potter's Village Presbyterian School	Mixed	2	64⅓	42	66·9	21	33·4	3·3	2 11 1½	1 6 0	—	3 17 1½	1 5 1½	2 6 8½	3 11 10
2	St. George Union School	,,	1	85	54	63·5	,,	,,	3·5	—	—	—	2 14 4	0 17 4	*2 10 0	3 7 4
3	Parham Private School	,,	1	38	25	65·8	,,	,,	3·7	—	—	—	1 2 5	1 2 5	*1 0 0	2 2 5
4	New Street ,,	,,	1	48	35	73	,,	,,	3·5	—	—	—	0 10 2	0 10 2	*1 0 0	1 10 2
37	General Total	-	58	2,999	1,750	58·5	1,386	46·2	3 nearly				252 12 0½	90 3 5	132 12 11½	222 14 4½

* Special Grants.

Enclosure 2 in No. 18.

SIR, Mico Institution, Buxton Grove, 30th June 1858. Encl. 2 in No. 18.

I have the honour to enclose, for your excellency's information, an abstract of the last quarterly returns of the normal department of this institution, from which you will perceive it has been in operation for the last twenty years, and that during that period, out of 274 persons entering the institution, 217 have completed their course of training, and have received appointments to schools in the islands of these West Indies.

Your excellency is doubtless aware that the institution offers its advantages equally to all classes of the native population of these islands, without reference to denominational religious profession, state, or condition; the simple requirement from candidates for admission is, that they consent to conform to the "rules and regulations" of the institution, as set forth in the printed circular, a copy of which I enclose. The student provides his clothes and books; the charity provides every other necessary. The average cost of each student for board, washing, and medical attendance will be about 20*l.* per annum, and the gross charge upon the funds of the charity for salaries of teachers, board of students, and other ordinaries will be about 1,000*l.* per annum. The original cost of the property, and the interest on that cost as an annual rental, I do not notice. There have been other large expenses from time to time for rebuilding, repairing, and enlarging. During the past ten years that I have been agent for the trustees and superintendent of the institution, I have expended in ordinary and extraordinary repairs and alterations about 1,800*l.* sterling.

The charity provides, on the before-mentioned terms, for fifteen students in regular attendance; and we have them from the three governments of Antigua, Barbadoes, and Demerara. Five years ago it was submitted to the trustees to admit a larger number of students, on the payment of $100 per head per annum, and they consented to receive a number from Demerara on these terms, the government voting the cost as above stated.

The institution is now open for the admission of persons generally on such conditions; and I take the liberty to suggest to your excellency, whether a portion of the grant made by the legislature of this island for educational purposes might not be legitimately and advantageously applied in preparing persons for the duties of teachers for the schools of this island.

Should your excellency deem the institution deserving your favourable notice, or should you be disposed to notice favourably our recent examination, I feel confident such notice would be very acceptable to the trustees of the charity, who, living at such a distance, must rely on the observation of visitors such as honoured us with their presence on Wednesday last. I have taken the liberty to leave the "Visitors Remark Book" at Government Office, that your excellency may have the opportunity of expressing an opinion, a copy of which I shall have great pleasure in transmitting to the trustees.

I have, &c.
(Signed) SIDNEY STEAD.

To His Excellency Ker B. Hamilton,
Governor-in-Chief, &c. &c. &c.

Mico Charity Normal School, Antigua.

The acknowledged importance of a properly qualified agency for carrying on the work of instruction renders it unnecessary to urge the propriety of an establishment for training persons intended for the office of teachers of the young.

The trustees of the Mico Charity have endeavoured to supply this desideratum for the West Indies by the institution of normal schools, the one in this island being designed to train teachers for this and the neighbouring colonies.

How far this normal seminary has succeeded in meeting the wants of the churches of these islands the missionaries who have availed themselves of the benefits of this institution by employing teachers who have been trained here will be best able to testify.

The trustees are anxious that no effort shall be wanting to secure the necessary qualifications for the proper discharge of the duties of the office of teacher. The state of the education and the limited means of those who have hitherto applied to become students in this institution, the utter incapacity of some, and the doubtful results from others, have been serious hindrances to the accomplishment of all that has been wished; the state of wages generally, and the consequent small remuneration which has been offered to teachers in many instances, have operated to exclude the talent which it is desirable to engage; and considering the wants of the church, and the circumstances of these islands, the following qualifications of admission cannot be considered higher than is necessary.

Qualifications of Candidates for Admission to the Mico Normal Institution.

1. Age not to be under 18 nor above 25.
2. Certificate of health, with freedom from bodily and mental infirmity.
3. Recommendation from the person whose religious ministrations the candidate has attended, with reference to disposition, mental ability, and aptitude for usefulness.
4. He must read well, spell correctly, write intelligibly, know how to work the four fundamental rules of arithmetic, and be well acquainted with the outlines of Scripture history.
5. He must engage to continue in the institution for two years, to submit to the discipline thereof, and in all things conform himself to the rules and regulations of the establishment.
6. He must provide himself with books to the amount of about 3*l.* sterling, with a suitable supply of clothes, bedding, bed linen, towels, and eating utensils.

ANTIGUA.

The institution will furnish him with food, lodging, washing, instruction, and medical attendance.

The course of instruction will comprise lessons in reading, writing, and arithmetic, English grammar, composition, geography, sacred and secular, history, sacred and secular, with the rudiments of the natural sciences, and vocal music.

Students are required to engage in manual labour within the institution for two hours on each day; the remainder of their time is occupied either in being taught or in teaching on Stow's training system.

At the expiration of two or five years, as may be, from the date of admission, the student, if duly qualified, will receive a certificate of qualification.

And in order to furnish missionaries and others with a guarantee that the work is conducted as its importance demands, the institution is open to daily visitation, on application to the rector, and ladies and gentlemen are hereby respectfully invited to visit the schools.

_____ Rector.

Buxton Grove.

MICO CHARITY.

ABSTRACT of former RETURNS of TEACHERS trained in the NORMAL SCHOOL at BUXTON GROVE, ANTIGUA, from its commencement in June 1838 to this date, viz., June 1858.

FOR WHAT SOCIETY.	Native Males.	Native Females.	Total.
Established Church - - -	32	18	50
Wesleyan Methodists - - -	58	13	71
United Brethren - - -	71	18	89
London Missionary Society - -	2	—	2
Mico Charity - - - -	25	21	46
Government of Demerara - -	8	—	8
Dismissed or withdrawn - - -	8	—	8
	204	70	274
Add total number now in training -	19	—	19
Total - -	223	70	293

RECAPITULATION.

Total Number entered from Commencement.			Number dismissed as unsuitable, &c.			Number appointed to the Charge of Schools.			Number now in Training.		
Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
223	70	293	41	6	47	153	64	217	19	—	19

30th June 1858. (Signed) SIDNEY STEAD.

Encl. 3 in No. 18.

Enclosure 3 in No. 18.

Antigua, 25th June 1858.

SIR,

IN compliance with the request of your excellency, that I should furnish you with some particulars of the nature and history of the murrain or epidemic among cattle which has been prevailing in the island for more than twelve months, I beg to offer a few remarks on the progress, symptoms, and pathology of the distemper as it presented itself under my own immediate observation, and briefly to state what I have obtained from the testimony of others.

After an unusually protracted rainy season, cold northerly winds prevailed for several months, during which period no rain fell, and the face of the country soon began to assume that arid desiccated appearance which is so characteristic in warm climates, particularly during this drying, scorching wind. At this time catarrhal fever or influenza assumed an epidemic form amongst the human species, and was of an unusually virulent type. At a sugar plantation situated on the north-east part of the island, horned stock began to perish in great numbers, and the symptoms and post-mortem appearances induced the proprietors and others connected with the property to believe that the animals had been poisoned; but neither chemical nor other evidence could be elicited to substantiate the conjecture. Soon after this contiguous estates began to suffer great losses in cattle: mules, sheep, and pigs were affected in like manner; and it was observed that the working and best-conditioned cattle chiefly were attacked by the epidemic. I was present at the dissection of several of these cases, and the appearances in every instance presented the same uniform morbid changes, such as congestion and inflammation of several portions of the alimentary canal, the abdominal cavity was sometimes filled with bloody serum, the liver was generally enlarged, and so was the spleen, which in some instances was completely rotten; the

rumen was always dry, and distended with half-digested food. The small and large intestines exhibited traces of inflammation, particularly the rectum, which in some cases was in a gangrenous condition. The lungs were generally gorged with blood, and the heart covered with patches of black extravasation. The whole of the respiratory mucous tract was of a reddish brown colour. The animal was generally attacked at night, being to all appearance in perfect health the previous day. Frequently a slight convulsive shudder with tremors of the limbs ushered in the more urgent symptoms; the animal became depressed, the hair rough and staring, a slight febrile heat of the surface might be detected, and the base of the horns especially was hot. Costiveness was a prominent symptom; the animal generally made ineffectual efforts to empty the bowels, so much so that the tenesmus caused partial prolapsus of the rectum. Rumination ceased entirely; the animal staggered, and at last fell down from exhaustion, accompanied with violent heaving of the flanks; and, on average, from two to twelve hours after the first seizure, the beast expired in convulsions.

The animal was seldom seen till the time for active treatment had gone by; but remedies, even when timeously administered, were almost nugatory, and prophylactic measures were found to be of most avail. The mortality was about 30 per cent.

The epidemic, in my opinion, has its origin in the same mysterious atmospheric agency which produces influenza and pestilential cholera. The force of the poison or morbific agent is concentrated upon the alimentary canal; and it is in this respect different from the pleuro-pneumonia epidemic of Europe, for the organs in the chest are but secondarily affected, and there is no cough nor other symptom of disease of the respiratory organs. It resembles more epidemic enteritis, arising from certain unascertained meteorological phenomena, conjointly with localizing causes, such as deficient pasturage after drought, or its acquiring some deleterious element, most probably from the dew which is deposited abundantly during the dry months of the year, and perhaps from the unwholesome state of the pond water at this season, owing to the presence of vegeto-animal matter in a state of decomposition. Whatever may be the cause, this epizootic disease, like pestilential cholera, is exceedingly capricious in the choice of its locality, not unfrequently leaving estates and districts in its line of march untouched, and deviating from its course to seize upon others in no respects differently circumstanced, apparently. There are a few dropping cases still existing in the western districts of the island.

I have, &c.

His Excellency
the Governor-in-Chief.

(Signed) A. NICHOLSON, M.D.

Enclosure 4. in No. 18.

Encl. 4 in No. 18.

COURT OF QUEEN'S BENCH and GRAND SESSION, Friday 5th June 1857.

The following is the address of his Honour the Chief Justice to the Grand Jury at the opening of the court:

Mr. Foreman and Gentlemen of the Grand Jury,

We are assembled to-day, under a recent Act of the island and the proclamation of his Excellency the Governor, to hold the present session of the court in this place during the unavoidable repair of the court-house. The building does not afford all the accommodation to which you are accustomed, but it is one in which the court has, on a like occasion, been assembled, and in the arrangements your convenience has been consulted as far as circumstances would admit.

The cases which will be submitted for your consideration are not numerous, and will not require lengthened deliberation.

The most serious in point of criminal intent are the charge against a husband for shooting at his wife with intent to murder or do her grievous harm, and setting fire to a dwelling house with inmates therein, but no injury resulted to human life in either case.

In one of these cases the offence is alleged to have been committed on the 6th of March, and the charge was not preferred until the 30th of that month. You will probably find that more than one member of the family was in a state of intoxication; a vice which destroys the peace of families, and too often leads to the commission of other crimes; and, under the circumstances, it will have to be considered whether the parties give a reliable account of what occurred.

There are two cases for cutting and wounding with intent to do grievous harm, preferred under the Act No. 884; one case for assaulting a constable in the execution of his duty; one other charge of assault; a charge of forgery preferred under Acts No. 426 and No. 993; a charge of breaking into a boiling or curing house, and committing larceny therein, under the Act No. 875; five or six cases of larceny of money, bank notes, wearing apparel, and goods; and two cases of obeah.

These cases do not require particular comment, and I have no doubt you will readily dispose of them. When the criminal law shall be amended, and it shall be allowable to present for your information indictments divested of those technicalities which increase length and unnecessarily occupy time, you will find that your duties may be performed with greater satisfaction to yourselves.

The public attention has recently been directed to a decrease in the population, not arising from emigration. It is certain that, as an old settled colony, providentially unvisited by epidemics, the population has not kept pace with the increase visible in some other long settled communities. The island is occasionally subject to drought, and the want of the blessing of water requires to be provided against by human industry. In every country there is some want different in character from the requirements of another country, which Providence may have ordained to engage the sedulous forethought and provident industry of the inhabitants. Your great want is a more abundant supply of water; and so far as human life is concerned this want could be provided for.

ANTIGUA.

We have conspicuous examples in ancient and modern times of the munificence of individuals in procuring a supply of water for cities and towns. The generous Atticus assumed the completion of the works for supplying the town of Troas with water, at a charge of more than double the amount granted by the emperor; and a noble Parsee in our days has supplied the city of Poonah with water at his own cost.

By your ancient laws it was required that cisterns should be built on plantations; but since the change of society which rendered that law inoperative there has been no substituted legal provision. The procurement of pure water requires capital and combined labour, which the poor have not, and cannot of themselves bestow; and I should be glad to see a beneficent principle introduced into the local legislation in this particular. In Barbados it was found that the supply of pure water for the use of the police at their stations, in lieu of the water which they had been accustomed to drink, caused their freedom from diseases attributable to the use of impure water from which they had suffered. The mortality, therefore, in this island, may be, in some measure, owing to the insufficient supply of good drinking water. Cleanliness, comfort, wholesome food, and pure water are great preventives to crime; and the last want may be supplied in part by legislation and in part by the liberality of the owners of plantations, in causing the erection of tanks or cisterns in connexion with the public buildings and works on plantations.

Your will have the goodness to make your customary visit of inspection to the gaol, in which there are at present 93 prisoners. With reference to their state of instruction, there are 13 who can read and write, 14 who can read only, and 66 who can neither read nor write.

Encl. 5 in No. 18.

Enclosure 5 in No. 18.

The REPORT of the REGISTRAR-GENERAL of BIRTHS and DEATHS for 1857.

MESSAGE from the GOVERNOR-IN-CHIEF, enclosing ANNUAL REPORT of REGISTRAR-GENERAL of BIRTHS and DEATHS.

KÉR B. HAMILTON.

THE Governor forwards to the Council and Assembly the report of the registrar-general of births and deaths for the year 1857.

The Governor earnestly recommends this report, containing suggestions for the amelioration of the condition of the people, to the consideration of the Council and Assembly.

The Governor particularly calls attention to the 10th paragraph, in which it is stated, that in comparatively few cases of disease in the rural districts, producing death, has the aid of a medical man been procured. This fact shows the necessity of medical aid being provided for the mass of the people.

Government House, 4th February 1858.

SIR, Colonial Secretary's Office, 29th January 1858.

I HAVE the honour to submit, for your excellency's information, abstracts of the registers of births and deaths for the year 1857. Such tables are required by the Registration Act to be annually laid before the Governor and the Council and Assembly; and I avail myself of the opportunity for calling attention to facts exhibited by these returns, which are noticeable as compared with European statistics of a like character.

2. I could have wished to collate the results of similar investigation in places where the social condition of the people more nearly resembles our own. But I am not aware of any West India colony in which such information has hitherto been collected. In the absence of such standards of comparison, I can only use those afforded by the reports of the registrar-general in Great Britain, and some that have been obtained from foreign countries.

3. While it is gratifying to find that upon the whole year the births exceed the deaths by 169, yet in many important particulars the present returns are unsatisfactory.

4. In all countries the mortality among young children, especially infants under the age of one year, is exceptionally large; but instead of the proportion, which is about the average of England, 22·5 or 22½ per cent., during the past year it has been in this island, including stillbirths, 34·4 or nearly 34½ per cent. And this very high number is remarkable, because if the deaths of infants under one year is subtracted from the total, the mortality among young persons up to the age of fourteen is by no means great, being only 13·8 or 13-8·10 per cent. of the return for the rest of the population.

5. The ratio of still-born children in comparison with the total births is 10·4, or nearly 10½ per cent., being distressingly and almost unaccountably in excess of the English proportion, which is 4·5, or 4½ per cent.

6. Yet more remarkable is the number of illegitimate births, which is 54 per cent. of the total, as against 6·7-10 per cent. for the whole of England, where in no locality does the proportion exceed 20 per cent. of the whole.

7. The proportions of births and of deaths to the total population of the colony are both larger than those of European countries. The number of births in England is about 3· 1-10 per cent. (3·1 per cent.) in this colony it has been 4· 1-5 (4·2). Deaths in England annually average about 1 in 46 of the population, in France 1 in 42, in Russia 1 in 28. Unfortunately this colony exceeds even the largest of these rates, and gives a proportion of 1 in 26, or 3· 8-10 per cent. Both births and deaths are by far the most numerous in the last quarter of the year.

8. The classification of causes of death exhibits an amount of mortality from tubercular diseases and affections of the respiratory organs, which may appear surprising to some who have been accustomed to regard a tropical climate as conferring a certain immunity from diseases of this character. The white population, indeed, appear to suffer little from them, as there are but 10 deaths recorded for the year as arising from such causes among this class. But the total number tends to verify the observation made by Dr. Adam Nicholson in the Holberton Hospital Report for the last quarter, that consumption is one of the chronic diseases of this island.

9. "Zymotic diseases" and those of the "organs of digestion" may be considered as comprehensive general, including many species of disease, some indigenous in all parts of the world, and others more specially endemic in the tropics. Therefore we may na urally expect high figures to be found under these heads.

10. It is right to observe that much difficulty has been found, perhaps in the majority of instances in the rural districts, in obtaining authentic information as to the nature of the illness causing death. In comparatively few cases has the aid of a professional man been procured. Of necessity, therefore, the registrars have been left to form their own conclusions from such knowledge as was afforded. But from the mode of classification used, which is that adopted by the registrar-general of England, the registrars have been able to arrive with tolerable accuracy at the class of diseases to which a death was to be attributed, although without the means to decide the peculiar cause.

11. With regard to the general operation of the Registration Act, I have the satisfaction to report that it has been quite as successful as there could have been reason to expect. There has been little difficulty in carrying out its provisions. But few instances, comparatively, have occurred where it has been necessary to enforce penalties for neglect to make returns. And naturally it may be anticipated that when compliance with regulations of yet recent institution shall have become more a matter of course still fewer instances of this kind will occur.

12. It would be advantageous if provision could be made for periodical returns to the district registrars, from the clergy, of baptisms as well as burials. A check would thus be supplied, valuable in many respects. I annex a return of the aggregate baptisms and burials for 1857, from which it will be perceived that a large discrepancy exists between the number of births and that of baptisms. It does not appear, as far as I have the means of judging from the total numbers, that any interments have taken place during the past year after baptism without religious offices, a subject adverted to in the 6th paragraph of the report on the census of 1856; but the additional returns I suggest would afford for the future more complete information on this point.

13. Consideration of the facts disclosed by the returns which are the subjects of my remarks places in a strong light the need which exists for legislative effort to supply medical aid to at least the younger members of the population.

I have, &c.
A. MUSGRAVE,
Registrar-General.

No. 1.—ABSTRACT of TOTAL BIRTHS and DEATHS in each QUARTER of the Year 1857.

QUARTERS.	No. of Births.	LEGITIMATE.		ILLEGITIMATE.		COMPLEXION.			No. of Deaths.	ADULTS.		UNDER 14 & OVER 1 YEAR.		1 YEAR & UNDER.		COMPLEXION.		
		Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Black.	White.	Coloured.		Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Black.	White.	Coloured.
Quarter ended—																		
31st March -	287	76	64	72	75	185	25	77	357	120	113	20	13	50	41	244	28	85
30th June -	355	100	80	83	92	256	30	69	278	77	87	11	8	48	47	198	13	67
30th September -	394	79	79	123	113	281	18	95	289	87	67	20	9	51	55	209	8	72
31st December -	479	104	114	141	120	346	39	94	422	110	99	17	24	90	82	290	33	99
TOTALS -	1,515	359	337	419	400	1,068	112	335	1,346	394	366	68	54	239	225	941	82	323

ANTIGUA.

No. 2.—CLASSIFICATION of CAUSES of DEATH for the Year ended 31st DECEMBER 1857.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	No. of Deaths.	Adults.		Under 14 and over 1 Year.		1 Year and under.		Complexion.		
		Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Black.	White.	Coloured.
I.—SPECIFIED CAUSES.—A. GENERAL DISEASES.										
Zymotic (Epidemic, Endemic, or Contagious)	155	30	35	17	12	38	23	107	18	30
B. SPORADIC DISEASES.										
Dropsy, Cancer, and other diseases of uncertain or variable seat	96	38	28	15	12	2	1	67	3	26
Tubercular diseases	112	52	52	3	3	—	2	74	4	34
Diseases of the Brain, Spinal Marrow, Nerves, and Senses	84	31	20	3	1	17	12	54	8	22
Diseases of the Heart and Blood-vessels	39	25	11	—	1	1	1	28	3	8
Diseases of the Lungs and other Organs of Respiration	80	22	21	2	2	19	14	59	4	17
Diseases of the Stomach, Liver, and other Organs of Digestion	164	70	40	7	10	22	15	107	17	40
Diseases of the Kidneys	7	5	1	—	—	1	—	3	1	3
Childbirth, diseases of the Womb, &c.	9	—	9	—	—	—	—	6	1	2
Rheumatism, diseases of the Bones, Joints, &c.	13	6	5	1	1	—	—	8	2	3
Diseases of the Skin, Cellular Tissue, &c.	35	17	16	1	—	1	—	24	—	11
Malformations	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Premature Birth and Debility	74	4	7	1	1	59	32	52	8	14
Atrophy	23	10	7	1	—	1	4	15	2	6
Age	114	38	76	—	—	—	—	93	—	21
Sudden	3	2	—	1	—	—	—	2	—	1
Violence, Privation, Poison, Intemperance, &c.	13	8	1	2	1	1	—	6	3	4
Still-born	158	—	—	—	—	76	82	127	4	27
II.—CAUSES NOT SPECIFIED	167	36	37	14	10	31	39	109	4	54
TOTALS	1,346	394	366	68	54	239	225	941	82	323

No. 3.—NUMBER of BAPTISMS and BURIALS for the Year 1857.

	Baptisms.	Burials.
Parish of Saint John	394	452
„ Saint Mary	88	24
„ Saint Paul	68	43
„ Saint Philip	74	35
„ Saint Peter	86	73
„ Saint George	109	58
Church of United Brethren	224	219
Wesleyan Society	77	104
TOTALS	1,120	1,008

MONTSERRAT.

No. 19.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor HAMILTON to the Right Honourable Lord STANLEY.

(No. 58.)

Leeward Islands, Antigua,
May 25, 1858.
(Received June 15, 1858.)

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit a Despatch from the President of Montserrat forwarding the Blue Book of the island for the year 1857.

2. With the exception of the Liquor Licence Act, under which a revenue is derived of 105*l.*, the whole of the revenue is raised by temporary Acts; and President Rushworth has used great exertions and had great difficulty in inducing the Assembly to impose the taxation necessary to meet the wants of civil government.

3. At the end of the year 1857 there was a deficiency of 493*l.*, which has been paid by a tax on land in the present year specially enacted to meet that deficiency.

4. It is admitted that there are not in Montserrat materials for forming a Council and Assembly, and the President suggests the union of the Council and Assembly into one body, or the legislative incorporation of the island with Antigua.

5. The population being divided into a few proprietors of estates and labourers, it is not to be expected that much attention will be given to general subjects requiring legislation. The present constitution has the effect of hindering the progress of the entire community, and the people would enjoy all the rights of local taxation under a Legislative Council partly nominative and partly elective.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. Lord Stanley, &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) KER B. HAMILTON.

Enclosure in No. 19.

Encl. in No. 19.

SIR,

Montserrat, March 29, 1858.

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith to your Excellency the Blue Book of this island for the year 1857, together with the accompanying report.

2. With regard to the trade of the island, the returns furnished exhibit on the one hand a slight falling off in the estimated value of the imports, and on the other an increase in that of exports, when compared with the year preceding, the decrease in the import trade being 1,201*l.* 6*s.* 1*d.*, and the increase in the export trade being 7,169*l.* 0*s.* 0*d.*

3. It must, however, be borne in mind, that the import trade of the colony in the year 1856 exceeded that of 1855 by 6,280*l.* 8*s.* 7*d.*, and, contrasting the two years 1857 and 1855, the trade of 1857 exceeded that of 1855 by 5,079*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.*

4 The Act for the imposition of customs duties in this island having been repealed on the 30th July 1856, and a higher rate of land tax levied in their stead, the value of the accompanying returns, for the purpose of forming an exact estimate of the general trade of the island, has been to some extent impaired.

5. The value of the imported articles is returned on these tables by the comptroller of customs as declared to him by the importer at the time of entry; and while on the one hand it may be said, that the circumstance of no duties being chargeable thereon the importer can have no object either in underrating or overstating the real worth of his goods, yet on the other the comptroller, who has likewise to perform the duties of colonial secretary and treasurer, has neither the power nor the means at his disposal for ascertaining whether the cargoes are fully or only partially declared at his office, and from the information given to me on this subject I am inclined to believe that no inconsiderable portion of the present trade of the island is beyond the observation of this officer.

6. The very circumstance of the shipping employed in our trade having in the past year increased 50 per cent. over that employed in the year 1856 incontestably proves the impulse given to the intercourse between this island and the neighbouring communities by the removal of the customs duties, and not only the inhabitants of the town, but a very large portion of the rural population, have availed themselves of the opportunities now at their command of procuring without the intervention of the local shopkeeper their supplies direct from Barbados, where the markets are almost always lower than in either of the more adjacent islands of Antigua and St. Kitts.

7. Of the actual value of this traffic it is impossible to form any accurate data; but it is well known by those engaged in the island trade to be of no slight extent, and has been made the subject of

MONTSERRAT.

complaint by some of the resident shopkeepers. Of these importations no account has been at all taken at the custom house, and I therefore am of opinion that had the entire import trade of the island for 1857 appeared on the face of the accompanying returns a large increase, instead of the present small decrease, would have been shown.

8. In order to give at one view the best exposition of the commerce of the island, I have annexed to this report returns showing the general import and export trade, as well as the amount of shipping employed therein during the years 1855, 1856, and 1857.

9. To elucidate the actual financial condition of the island more clearly than can be done by a reference to the official tables in the Blue Book, the treasurer has prepared a statement of the revenue and expenditure for 1857, that in one view sets forth all the transactions of the past year, and this document I have also appended to my report.

10. Although the actual receipts in 1857 would have enabled the executive to meet the expenditure of the year, yet the treasury was quite unequal to discharge at the same time the arrears of 1856; to supply the deficiency therefore the legislature in November last passed an Act increasing the first instalment of the land tax payable in March 1858, by an additional rate of 8*s.* on every 100*l.* of real estate returned for assessment in the island.

11. This additional rate has now been received, and I have the satisfaction of stating that the entire public expenditure of the island to the 31st December last has been cleared off, not only without at all trenching on the revenue of 1858, but leaving out of the additional rate just referred to a surplus of 146*l.* for the service of the present year.

12. I have from my arrival here striven by every means in my power to place the financial affairs upon a respectable footing. In my annual reports for 1855 and 1856 I alluded to the steps I had taken for correcting some of what I consider the worst evils in the former system of the island, and I am glad to say that I have received the co-operation of the Council and Assembly in placing what I trust will prove a final check to the remission of taxes, and the voting grants of money to individuals who may chance to have favour and interest with the members of the legislature. By a rigid adherence also to the rule of issuing no warrant to the treasurer for payments at a future period, I have quite extinguished a description of paper money long known in this island as "treasury orders." During the past year all payments have been made from the treasury either in specie or in notes of the Colonial Bank, and every claim on account of the public service for the present quarter ending the 31st inst. will on the customary vote being agreed to by the legislature be punctually and fully met.

13. As the Land Tax Act, passed in 1855, expires in the present year, it is very essential that the legislature should, without any further delay, determine on the rule that is to prevail with regard to taxation for the future. From resolutions passed in the Assembly, I consider it may for certain be inferred that recourse will again be had to the old three-fold system of duties on imports and exports, and the imposition of a land tax.

14. For the present year, indeed, the two instalments of the land tax, with a duty on imports, may suffice; provided, however, that the Act for the imposition of the latter be not much longer postponed. For 1859 the duties of imports and exports, and a land tax of three-quarters per cent. (the old accustomed rate) would give a revenue adequate to the public service as it exists at present.

15. The difference, however, between the amount received and the amount expended under such arrangement would be so slight in favour of the former, that, unless the community will submit to increased burdens, it will be impossible for the executive to effect any of the improvements that are urgently called for, or, I should say, supply any of the deficiencies that are so much to be deplored in this island.

16. In opening the present session of the legislature, I dwelt upon the necessity of adequate provision being made from the public resources for the maintenance of clergy and teachers, in proportion to the requirements of the community, for the repairs of churches and schoolhouses, and also for securing the services of a properly qualified medical practitioner; beyond, however, a general admission of these deficiencies on the part of the Council and Assembly, I regret I have it not in my power to report further progress.

These wants have, indeed, year after year, been pressed by the executive on the attention of the local legislature. The insufficiency of the ordinary revenue to meet the current expenses of the government, and the unwillingness of the community to submit to special local assessments for these purposes, have been hitherto alleged by both chambers of the legislature as insuperable difficulties for the accomplishment of the desired ends. For my own part, judging from the past, I must confess that I am not sanguine that anything approaching to a satisfactory establishment of the institutions of Montserrat on an efficient and creditable footing will be attained until an improvement has been effected in the present machinery of legislation, either by the union in one body of reduced numbers of the Council and Assembly, or by the complete incorporation of the island with Antigua. To the latter mode, as the one most beneficial to the community, I am, as your Excellency is already aware, the more inclined.

I have, &c.

His Excellency the Governor in Chief, &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) EDW. RUSHWORTH.

MONTSERRAT.

IMPORTS.

	£	s.	d.
Estimated value of Imports in 1855 - - -	7704	1	11
" " " 1856 - - -	13,984	10	6
" " " 1857 - - -	12,783	4	5

COMPARISON of IMPORTS for the Years 1855, 1856, 1857.

Articles.	1855.		1856.		1857.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
		£ s. d.		£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Asses - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	12 head	18 0 0
	hhds. brls. doz.		hhds. dozen.		hhds. brls.	
Beer - -	9 26 35	107 6 0	18¼ 96	104 10 0	19 87	197 0 0
	kegs. lbs.		cwt. qrs. lbs.		cwt. qrs.	
Butter - -	16 3,178	156 0 9	18 2 12	86 17 6	32 2	146 5 0
	¼ cask dems. galls.					
Brandy -	1 4 80¼	57 7 4	330 gallons	146 12 0	342 gallons	136 16 0
Beef - -	5½ barrels	18 8 0	—	—	—	—
	cwt. qrs. lbs.		cwt. qrs. lbs.		cwt. qrs. lbs.	
Candles, tallow	51 1 24	205 19 5	68 3 14	166 3 0	68 1 23	206 1 5
Candles, composition -	6 1 8	29 16 10	3 3 20	25 9 0	2 2 20	12 10 0
Cheese -	11 2 22	30 19 8	7 3 9	26 17 9	17 1 12	43 7 9
Cocoa Nuts -	- - -	- - -	900	3 12 0	—	—
			cwt. qrs. lbs.			
Coffee - -	2 1 17	5 18 0	4 2 8	16 0 10	4 0 0	15 0 0
Coals - -	30 hhds.	38 0 0	123 hogsheads	161 13 0	207 hhds.	310 10 0
Crackers -	36 barrels	39 7 0	35¼ barrels	35 5 0	33 barrels	39 12 0
Carts - -	2	20 0 0	—	—	—	—
Cigars -	- - -	8 6 4	- - -	10 0 0	—	—
Corn - -	- - -	- - -	112 bushels	26 0 0	236 bushels	47 4 0
Drugs -	- - -	- - -	2 cases	24 9 0	—	—
Earthenware -	- - -	- - -	- - -	42 9 0	—	—
Flour, Wheat-	331 barrels.	735 10 0	717 barrels	1,448 0 0	578 barrels	1,156 0 0
	csks. cwt. qr. lbs.		cwt. qrs. lbs.			
Fish, dried -	53 565 1 19	565 13 0	1,384 2 16	1,026 9 0	1,539 cwt.	1,070 6 0
					cwt. qrs. lbs.	
Fish, pickled -	601 barrels	419 0 0	773 0 14	433 0 0	510 2 4	319 10 0
Furniture -	- - -	- - -	- - -	160 9 0	—	—
	demis. galls.		casks. gallons.			
Gin - -	22 65	22 16 8	2 413	119 12 0	325 gallons	48 15 0
			hds. pns. bags. brls.			
Guano -	- - -	- - -	6 15 27 10	267 0 0	20 tons	400 0 0
	cwt. qr. lbs.		cwt. qrs. lbs.			
Hams -	2 1 3	7 6 10	6 3 18	29 18 4	—	—
Hardware -	- - -	- - -	- - -	143 3 2	—	—
Hard Wood -	1,639 feet.	46 0 0	3,834 feet	77 0 0	—	—
Horses -	1	30 0 0	4	90 0 0	3	96 0 0
Linseed Meal	- - -	- - -	1 cask	4 10 0	—	—
Lumber -	37,860 feet.	168 17 0	83,837 feet	369 10 0	174,000 feet	696 0 0
	pails cwt. qr. lbs.		cwt. qrs. lbs.		cwt. qrs. lbs.	
Lard - -	30 20 0 20	55 10 0	15 2 24	49 11 0	14 2 2	54 4 0
			hhds. barrels.		hhds. trcs. brls.	
Lime - -	22 barrels	4 8 0	36 140	73 4 0	99 11 360	283 4 0
Machinery -	- - -	- - -	- - -	100 0 0	—	—
Meal - -	47 barrels	54 0 0	550 barrels	550 0 0	79 barrels	79 0 0
Meal, Rye -	9 "	11 4 0	23 "	23 0 0	—	—
Merchandise -	- - -	3,245 13 1	- - -	6,164 6 0	—	5,600 0 0
Monument -	- - -	- - -	1	20 0 0	—	—
Mules -	- - -	- - -	21 head	420 0 0	34 head	680 0 0
Nails - -	6 bags	2 10 0	—	—	—	—
Oats - -	269 bushels	42 4 0	135 bushels	30 15 0	—	—
Oil - -	- - -	- - -	23 gallons	3 9 0	—	—
Pipes - -	3 boxes	3 0 0	—	—	—	—
Plantation Stores -	- - -	806 8 0	- - -	142 7 5	—	—
			cwt. qrs. lbs.			
Pork, salted -	72 barrels	298 0 0	219 0 26	440 0 0	110½ barrels	386 15 0
Powder -	25 lbs.	0 12 0	—	—	—	—
Peas - -	12 bushels	2 16 0	54 bushels	15 4 0	—	—
Pitch - -	- - -	- - -	1 barrel	1 0 0	8 barrels	8 0 0
Puncheons, empty -	- - -	- - -	101	95 11 0	150	90 0 0

IMPORTS—*continued.*

Articles.	1855. Quantity.	1855. Value.	1856. Quantity.	1856. Value.	1857. Quantity.	1857. Value.
	cwt. qrs. lbs.	£ s. d.	cwt. qrs. lbs.	£ s. d.	cwt. qrs. lbs.	£ s. d.
Rice	44 3 26	39 6 0	57 0 3	57 12 0	36 3 12	14 4 0
Salt	137 barrels	48 4 0	210 barrels	54 13 4	194 barrels	38 16 0
Snuff	4 jars	4 14 0	20 lbs.	4 0 0	—	—
	brls. lbs.		cwt. qrs. lbs.		cwt. qrs. lbs.	
Sugar	3 240	20 4 0	43 3 12	159 12 8	22 0 0	61 12 0
	boxes cwt. qr. lbs.					
Soap	54 56 0 27	81 16 0	60 1 9	49 18 8	33 3 6	37 12 3
Shingles	74,000	77 10 0	29,000	35 0 0	170,000	170 0 0
Staves	600	3 12 0	—	—	—	—
Sundries	- - -	- - -	- - -	220 7 6	—	—
Tar	- - -	- - -	1 barrel	1 0 0	—	—
			cwt. qrs. lbs.			
Tallow	- - -	- - -	2 2 23	2 4 2	—	—
Tea	2 chests.	11 14 0	5 chests	20 0 0	—	—
	cwt. qr. lbs.		cwt. qrs. lbs.			
Tobacco	24 0 6	84 0 0	26 3 19	64 5 0	40 cwt.	160 0 0
Vinegar	- - -	- - -	7 gallons	1 8 0	—	—
	casks. dozen.				hhds. qr. csks. cs.	
Wine	11 1	81 0 0	9 qr. casks	86 1 2	3 5 57	161 0 0
Wood Hoops	2,540	13 4 0	122 bundles	54 19 0	—	—
		7,704 1 11		13,984 10 6		12,783 4 5

EXPORTS.

	£	s.	d.
Estimated value of Exports in 1855 - -	19,968	2	0
„ „ 1856 - -	17,613	8	0
„ „ 1857 - -	24,782	8	0

COMPARISON of Exports for the Years 1855, 1856, 1857.

Articles.	1855. Quantity.	1855. Value.	1856. Quantity.	1856. Value.	1857. Quantity.	1857. Value.
		£ s. d.		£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Cattle	156 head	482 0 0	305 head	915 0 0	263 head	1,052 0 0
Copper, old	1 Parcel	6 0 0	—	—	—	—
Corn, Indian	- - -	- - -	40 bushels	10 0 0	—	—
Horses	2	18 0 0	4	40 0 0	16	160 0 0
Iron, old	- - -	- - -	4 tons	16 0 0	—	—
Molasses	250 puns.	1,170 0 0	180 puncheons	720 0 0	378 punchs.	2,268 0 0
Metal, old	1 parcel	5 0 0	—	—	—	—
Potatoes	- - -	10 0 0	—	—	—	—
	puns. hhds.					
Rum	170 4	1,374 0 0	69 puncheons	586 10 0	49 punchs.	441 0 0
	hhds. trcs. brls.		hhds. trcs. brls.		hds. trcs. brls.	
Sugar	767 246 222	16,456 0 0	600 225 184	14,935 0 0	841 237 161	20,303 10 0
Sheep	- - -	- - -	47 head	23 10 0	96 head	48 0 0
Staves	- - -	50 0 0	—	—	—	—
Tamarinds	20 barrels	17 0 0	110 barrels	143 0 0	49 barrels	73 10 0
Timber, boat	36 pieces	7 10 0	—	—	—	—
Turace	24 barrels	1 12 0	60 barrels	15 0 0	54 barrels	10 16 0
Wood, fire	585 cords	371 0 0	349 cords	209 8 0	751 cords	425 12 0
		19,968 2 0		17,613 8 0		24,782 8 0

EXPORTS—*continued.*

COMPARISON of the quantity of Sugar exported in the years 1855, 1856, 1857.

1855.		1856.		1857.	
Hogsheads.	Value.	Hogsheads.	Value.	Hogsheads.	Value.
968	£ 1,6456 s. 0 d. 0	773	£ 14,935 s. 0 d. 0	1,019	£ 20,303 s. 10 d. 0

	1855.	1856.	1857.
Value of hogsheads of sugar - -	£ 17 s. 0 d. 0	£ 20 s. 0 d. 0	£ 20 s. 0 d. 0

SHIPPING.

NUMBER of Vessels that have entered Inwards and cleared Outwards during the years 1855, 1856, 1857.

1856.						1856.						1857.					
Inwards.			Outwards.			Inwards.			Outwards.			Inwards.			Outwards.		
No.	Tons.	Men.	No.	Tons.	Men.	No.	Tons.	Men.	No.	Tons.	Men.	No.	Tons.	Men.	No.	Tons.	Men.
134	4,108	696	129	3,633	665	157	4,418	661	155	4,353	653	244	6,516	1,130	240	6,492	1,020

STATEMENT of the Revenue and Expenditure of Montserrat for the year 1857.

EXPENDITURE.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	REVENUE.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Civil, judicial, and ecclesiastical establishments - -	1,057 3 6		Cash in chest on 31st December 1856 - - -	- - -	4 12 4¾
Poor establishment - -	417 8 11		Land tax - - -	1,752 15 0½	
Gaol do. - - -	57 7 7		Liquor licences - -	105 0 0	
Road do. - - -	11 0 1		Fines, penalties, and forfeitures	62 18 11¼	
Printing - - -	8 4 10		Boat and porters' licences -	3 6 8	
4th Instalment and interest of the loan - - -	797 18 11		Proceeds of sale of loan encumbered estates - - -	725 2 9½	
Miscellaneous expenditure -	136 5 11¼				2,649 3 5¾
Total expenditure for 1857 - - -		2,485 9 9½	Excess of expenditure over revenue - -	- - -	493 15 10½
Arrears of expenditure of 1856 - - -		662 1 11¾			3,147 11 9
		3,147 11 9			
To excess of expenditure as per foregoing return - - - - -		493 15 10½			
To estimated surplus - - -		146 4 1½			
		640 0 0	By land tax payable in March 1858, raised for the payment of the arrears of 1857 - -		640 0 0

St. Kitts.

ST. KITTS.

No. 20.

No. 20.

Copy of DESPATCH from Governor Hamilton to the Right Hon. Lord Stanley.
(No. 52.)

Leeward Islands, Antigua, May 21, 1857.
(Received June 15, 1858.)

My Lord,

No. 27. St. Kitts. 26 April 1858.

I have the honour to forward to your Lordship copy of a Despatch from Lieutenant Governor Robinson with the Blue Book of St. Kitts for the year 1857.

2. The satisfactory state of the finances of that colony, in which a settled revenue has been secured for some years, will admit of measures of general utility and sanitary improvement being carried out.

3. The remunerative prices of exported produce is stated to have been attended with the rise of wages of 33 per cent.; and the population being actively employed, there has not during the year been a crime of any magnitude; and the imprisonments for offences have been only 253 in a population of 22,200.

4. The agricultural prospects of the island are most encouraging, and an increase of labour is alone wanted to augment the export of sugar.

I have, &c.
(Signed) KER B. HAMILTON.

The Right Hon. Lord Stanley,
&c. &c. &c

Encl. in No. 20.

Enclosure in No. 20.

Copy of DESPATCH from Lieut.-Governor Robinson to Governor Hamilton.
(No. 27.)

Sir,

St. Christopher, April 26, 1858.

I have the honour to forward the Blue Book of St. Kitts for the year 1857.

Revenue and Expenditure.

2. The financial condition of the colony continues satisfactory. The revenue of 1857 exceeds that of 1856 by 3,205*l.* 6*s.*, being respectively, exclusive of the sums raised for immigration purposes, 19,399*l.* 19*s.* 3*d.* and 16,194*l.* 13*s.* 3*d.* The expenditure for the same period is increased by 2,007*l.* 19*s.* 11*d.*, being in 1857 18,041*l.* 4*s.* 4*d.*, and in 1856 16,033*l.* 4*s.* 5*d.*

3. The increase in the revenue may be taken as evidence of the progressive improvement of the island, there being without any additional taxation, an increase under each separate tax or duty, as will be seen by a reference to the comparative statement at pages 30 and 31 of the Blue Book. The revenue of last year exceeds, by several thousand pounds, the largest ever before raised.

1857.
Revenue - £19,399 19 3
Expenditure - 18,041 4 4
£ 1,358 14 11

4. The increase in the expenditure is attributable to the large outlay upon public works, the particulars of which will be noticed under that head; the ordinary expenditure of the colony has not increased, and the total disbursements during the period under review have been less than the receipts by 1,358*l.* 14*s.* 11*d.*

5. The cash balance in the treasury upon the 31st December last amounted to 5,302*l.* 7*s.* 9*d.*, as compared with a balance of 3,943*l.* 12*s.* 10*d.* upon the corresponding day of the previous year. The real financial position of the colony at the close of the past year will, however, be more clearly explained by the following statement, by which it will be seen that, after deducting the amount of all liabilities to 31st December 1857, there remained a net balance of 3,912*l.* 7*s.* 9*d.* available for the services of 1858:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Balance in Treasury on 31st December 1857 - -	5,302	7	9
Due by Church Commissioners, amount advanced - -	1,000	0	0
Due by Board of Education, amount advanced - -	150	0	0
Total assets - - -	6,452	7	9
Deduct liabilities to 31st December 1857 - -	2,540	0	0
Net Balance available for the services of 1858 - -	3,912	7	9

6. The prospect for the current year is equally satisfactory. I annex a financial estimate for 1858, by which it is calculated that the revenue will exceed the ordinary expenditure by more than 7,000*l.*, a sum sufficient to complete every public undertaking at present in progress, and to carry out several long contemplated measures of sanitary reform. ST. KITTS.

Financial Estimate for 1858.

ESTIMATED REVENUE.	£	ORDINARY EXPENDITURE.	£
Balance available from 1857	3,912	Regular establishment	8,000
Import duties	9,800	Public institutions	2,000
Export duties and house tax	2,550	Roads and bridges	1,300
Inwards tonnage and package	1,000	Schools	500
Export tonnage on produce	800	Cemetery	300
Fines and fees	400	New edition of laws	200
Licenses of all descriptions	900	Incidental and miscellaneous	500
Miscellaneous sources	50	Total ordinary expenditure	£12,800
Provision land tax	500	Probable balance available for extra-ordinary services of 1858	7,112
Total	£19,912		£19,912

7. The Import Duties Act, which expired on the 9th July last, and to which I alluded in my Report accompanying the Blue Book for 1856, has been re-enacted for a term of seven years, "and further until the expiration of the then sitting House of Assembly." By this Act about 10,000*l.* of the revenue of the island, estimated at 16,000*l.*, is secured for at least seven years. The remaining 6,000*l.* is collected under permanent enactments. Thus an income, amply sufficient to meet every requirement of the public service, has been provided for many years to come.

8. Measures have also been adopted during the past year for placing the expenditure under proper control; the most important of these is the reservation to paid and responsible public servants of the power to initiate votes of public money in the Assembly, an amendment long required here, and one essential to an economical administration of financial affairs. Act, No. 134. Clause 9.

Public Debt.

9. There is none.

Military Expenditure.

10. No expense has been incurred on this account. There is no militia or local corps of any description, and the police are numerically insufficient to cope with any popular disturbance. But public attention has lately been awakened to the danger of allowing the island to remain in such an unprotected state, and I have no doubt that an efficient police force, and a local corps of some sort, will shortly be established, sufficient at all events to secure the maintenance of internal order and tranquillity.

Public Works.

11. The expenditure under this head has been as follows:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
1. Repairs of roads, bridges, and watercourses	1,385	18	9
2. Repairs of public buildings	492	5	2
3. Inclosing new cemetery	709	2	8
4. Completing waterworks	809	6	0
5. New church, Basseterre	3,615	0	4
Total outlay on public works in 1857	7,011	12	11

12. The roads, bridges, and watercourses throughout the island are now in a state of efficient repair. The public buildings also, generally, are in good order, with the exception of the parish church of Saint Thomas. Middle Island, which is in a dilapidated state; it will, however, I hope shortly be taken in hand. The enclosing of the new extra-urban cemetery to the leeward of the town of Basseterre is almost accomplished. The works for supplying the town of Basseterre with good water from the mountains,

ST. KITTS.

an improvement talked of for upwards of a century, have at length been completed, and all classes of the inhabitants appear gratefully to appreciate this great boon.

13. The new church in course of erection in Basseterre progresses favourably in every particular, except that of cost. The original estimate for this work was 3,655*l.*; but as I mentioned in my Report of last year, this amount was found to be insufficient, and a further sum of 3,400*l.* was asked for. The Legislature voted this additional grant in July last; and now a further sum of 3,000*l.* is found to be necessary for the completion of the building. Within the last few days an Act has been passed granting the sum required; so that the total amount voted for this undertaking now exceeds 10,000*l.*, nearly treble the original estimate. The building has been roofed in, and will I think be ready for use in a few months; when completed it will be a credit to the colony.

Act, No. 131. 10 July 1857.

Act, No. 135.

Legislation.

14. Eight Acts have been passed during the last year, the titles of which will be found at pages 54 and 55 of the Blue Book. The most important are, an Act to amend the Laws relating to Aliens, an Import Duties Act, already referred to under the head of Revenue and Expenditure, and an Act to authorize the Appointment of an Executive Council and Administrative Committee, to which last I shall have occasion to revert more particularly in a subsequent part of this Despatch.

No. 127. 3 Feb. 1857.

No. 128. 9 July 1857.

No. 134. 30 Dec. 1857.

15. Although not strictly connected with the legislation of 1857 I may mention under this head an improvement which has been carried out during the past year. A new edition of the Laws in force to the 30th July 1857 has been published under the authority of an Act passed at the close of 1856. By omitting in the new edition all such Acts, clauses, and parts of Acts as have expired, been repealed, or had their effect; also all clauses repealing Acts or parts of Acts, and the schedules of all repealed Acts, the whole has been reduced from 743 Acts in five volumes to 133 Acts in one moderate sized 8vo. volume. The work has been neatly and carefully executed at a total cost of only 285*l.*

No. 125. 31 Dec. 1856.

Political Franchise.—Council and Assembly.

16. In my Despatch No. 35, of the 22d of April 1857, which accompanied the Blue Book for 1856, I reported fully upon the nature and working of the political institutions of this island; I also at the same time submitted at some length my views as to the reforms required in the administrative system, but which the Assembly had shortly before declined to carry out; it is unnecessary, therefore, that I should on the present occasion go over the same ground again. It will be sufficient to state, that since then a new Assembly have been elected who have adopted all my recommendations, and that an Act, precisely similar to the one previously rejected, has been passed, and only awaits Her Majesty's confirmation to be brought into operation.

General Election, Aug. 1857.

No. 134. Council and Committee Act, 1857, passed 30 Dec. 1857.

17. The object of this enactment is to establish an effective and responsible administrative system. It provides, first, for the establishment of an Executive Council composed of members of both branches of the Legislature, and holding office by a political tenure; and, secondly, for the appointment of a paid administrative committee of three members, who will be the official organs of communication between the Governor and the Legislative Chambers, and who will further be entrusted, under the supervision of the Executive, with the responsible superintendence of the finances, and the discharge of all those administrative duties of government at present attempted but inefficiently executed by irresponsible unpaid committees of the Legislative Houses.

18. The control of the Legislative Houses over the administration of the Executive Government will thereby be restricted to the constitutional influence which they can at all times bring to bear in their collective capacities. Without overstepping the limits of their legitimate functions, they possess ample and effective securities for good government; and any attempt to obtain more, by an anomalous combination of legislative and executive functions in popular bodies, such as exists here, destroys efficiency and fritters away responsibility.

Population and Immigration.

19. No census has been taken since 1st January 1855. The population was then found to be:

Males - - -	9,525
Females - - -	11,216
	20,741

ST. KITTS.

20. Since then the excess of births over deaths has amounted to about 1,150, and the immigration to 265, so that the number of the population at present does not probabaly fall far short of 22,200. The island has during the last year been free from epidemics.

21. 157 indentured labourers have been imported from Madeira during the past year under the provisions of the Immigration Acts. The fund available for this service, and which is not included in the balance of general revenue before mentioned, amounted on 31st December last to 4,047*l.* 6*s.* 4*d.*

Act, No. 107.
" No. 115.
" No. 122.

Sanitary.

22. Measures of sanitary reform are still urgently required here, I therefore again pressed the consideration of them upon the Legislative Houses in my Speech on opening the new Session in September last. The subject, I am happy to report, has been at length taken up in earnest, and three important Bills relating to the public health are now before the Assembly, which will, I have every reason to believe, become law within the course of a few months.

Bill to establish a Board of Health.
Bill to regulate Quarantine.
Bill to establish Registration of Births and Deaths.

Education.

23. The returns under this head continue satisfactory. The Education Act, which is based upon the principle of affording public aid to the schools in connexion with the different religious denominations, in proportion to the number of regular attendants in each school, provided they are placed under the control and supervision of the Board of Education, has now been in operation for upwards of two years, and is working well. The number of schools receiving grants of public money has increased from 25 in January 1856 to 35 at the close of last year; they are now divided amongst the several denominations as follows:

No. 117., passed 17th Dec. 1855

Schools in connexion with the Established Church - -	17
Church of the United Brethren called Moravians - -	9
Wesleyan Mission - - - - - -	9
Total Number of Schools receiving public aid -	35

24. The attendance also in the different schools appears to be steadily increasing, and I am glad to say efforts are being made to introduce a better class of teachers, though there is still room for improvement in this most important particular.

25. The tax upon provision grounds, levied expressly for educational purposes, realised last year, without there being any default, 531*l.* 5*s.*; the school fees received from the children during the same period amounted to 207*l.* 15*s.* 3*d.*, making a total of 739*l.* 0*s.* 3*d.* (independent of all private contributions) expended during the year for educational purposes.

Imports and Exports.

26. There is an increase in the estimated value of the imports, as compared with 1856, amounting to 35,576*l.* 10*s.* 8*d.*; the imports for 1857 being returned at 144,581*l.* 14*s.* 10*d.*, and for 1856, 109,005*l.* 4*s.* 2*d.* The exports also exhibit an increase from 137,531*l.* 4*s.* in 1856, to 208,188*l.* 8*s.* in 1857, showing an improvement of 70,657*l.* 4*s.* The exports of the year, it will be observed, have exceeded the imports by 63,606*l.* 13*s.* 2*d.*

27. The increase in the imports is to be ascribed in some slight degree to the circulation amongst the labouring class of an unusually large expenditure upon public works, and also to the substitution of imported food for the vegetable products of the island, the cultivation of provision grounds having diminished by nearly one third; but it must mainly be attributed to the extension of sugar cultivation, and the increased outlay upon the construction and repairs of works caused by the advance in the price of sugar. The imports of 1857 exceed in value those of any year since 1847.

28. The value of the exports also is larger than in any year since 1840. The increase, as compared with 1856, is almost entirely owing to the higher price of produce in the home market; the crop of 1857 being only a little larger than that of the previous year. The following is a statement given to me by one of the principal and most trustworthy planters in this island, showing the prices realised by him on his sugars for the last six years, after paying all expenses of freight, insurance, duty, and merchants' charges at home:—

St. Kitts.

			£	s.	d.	
Crop of	1852	averaged	12	10	0	per Hhd. of 16 Cwt.
„	1853	„	12	0	0	„
„	1854	„	14	5	0	„
„	1855	„	14	7	6	„
„	1856	„	16	10	0	„
„	1857	„	19	10	0	„

Agriculture.

29. In my Report of last year I mentioned that, in consequence of the lengthened drought which prevailed during 1856, it was not expected that the crop then being reaped would exceed 4,000 hogsheads. This estimate, however, I am glad to say, turned out to be considerably below the mark, and the crop of last year yielded a fair average return. The following is a statement of the quantity of produce exported for the last two years respectively :—

	Hhd. of Sugar.	Puns. of Rum.	Puns. of Molasses.
1856 - -	5,884	1,420	1,739
1857 - -	6,512	1,115	1,952

30. The agricultural prospects of the present crop are most encouraging, and if sufficient labour can only be obtained to take off the ripe canes now on the ground, the island will probably make a larger return than it has done in any year during the present century; there being, it is estimated, a breadth of land under cultivation sufficient to yield 12,000 hogsheads. But as I have often before explained, the planter's chief difficulty here at all times is the want of continuous labour; this difficulty is at present aggravated by the increased demand, and I regret to learn that the unusually fine crop of the present year is being reaped at a double sacrifice, both a neglect of next year's crop and a rise in the price of wages of fully 33 per cent.

Gaol and Prisoners.

Return of Convicts, 1857.

31. I forward with this Despatch a return showing the number of convicts sentenced to imprisonment during the past year, with the nature of their offences, by which it will be seen that both in number and character the offences are similar to those of the preceding year. There has not been a crime of any magnitude; and the total number of convicts sentenced to imprisonment during 1857 amounted only to 253, out of a population of 22,200, or in the proportion of 1·13 per cent.

Conclusion.

32. In conclusion I would beg to observe that, having on former occasions reported fully upon the moral, social, and political condition of the colony, I have endeavoured in this Despatch to avoid any unnecessary repetition, and to confine my observations to a review of the principal events of the past year as shown in the Blue Book returns now forwarded. These returns are, upon the whole, satisfactory. They afford evidence of improvement in the material interests of the island, and record the adoption of measures well calculated to remedy the evils existing in the administrative system of government, and to establish the financial prosperity of the colony upon a solid basis.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERCULES G. R. ROBINSON.

His Excellency the Governor-in-Chief,
&c. &c &c., Antigua.

Return of the Number of Convicts sentenced to Imprisonment, or Imprisonment with Hard Labour, for the Year ending 31st December 1857.

Crimes.		
1*st. Against the Person:*		
Murder	—	
Culpable homicide	1	
Assault, with intent to murder	—	
Rape, or assault with intent	—	
Unnatural offences, or attempts	—	
Assault with intent to do grievous bodily harm	—	
Assaults	31	
		32
2*d. Against Property with Violence:*		
House, &c. breaking with intent to steal, and theft	—	
3*d. Against Property without Violence:*		
Cattle, horse, and sheep stealing, theft or receipt of stolen goods, &c.	93	
Frauds, embezzlement, Vagrant Act	3	
		96
4*th. Malicious Offences against Property:*		
Arson	1	
Other malicious injuries of property	—	
Forgery	—	
		1
5*th. Other Offences:*		
Abusive language	26	
Aiding prisoners to escape	—	
Conspiracy	—	
Contempt of court	2	
Cruelty to animals	3	
Contract Act	6	
Disorderly conduct	49	
Exposing person	2	
Forcible possession	—	
Game laws	—	
Merchant Seamen's Act	15	
Perjury	—	
Petty Trespass Act	7	
Poundbreach	—	
Resisting police	11	
Revenue laws	—	
Sanitary	—	
Unauthorized detention of property	—	
Uttering counterfeit coin	1	
Driving unlawfully through the streets	1	
Porters and Boatmen Act	—	
Riding furiously in the street	1	
		124
Total		253

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No. 21.

NEVIS.

No. 21.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor HAMILTON to the Right Hon. Lord STANLEY.

(No. 32.)

Leeward Islands, Antigua, March 23, 1858.

(Received April 19, 1858.)

MY LORD,

No. 28. 4 March 1858.

I HAVE the honour to transmit the Blue Book of Nevis for the year 1857, with the report of President Sir Arthur Rumbold.

2. That island has been in a state of public financial embarrassment for some time, in consequence of the substitution of direct for indirect taxation, and the abolition of all import duties.

3. The imposition of direct taxation fell heavily on one class of persons, and was constantly evaded and unwillingly submitted to. The negro population is averse to direct taxation; and, in a small community, where there are only a few importing merchants without general competition, the mass of the people did not benefit by the removal of import duties, the amount of which was diverted from the Treasury to the importing class.

4. Sir Arthur Rumbold has exerted himself with zeal, ability, and success to put the finances in a just position and to improve public credit.

I have, &c.

(Signed) KER B. HAMILTON.

The Right Hon. Lord Stanley,
&c. &c. &c.

Encl. 1 in No. 21.

Enclosure in No. 21.

COPY of a REPORT from President Sir ARTHUR RUMBOLD to Governor HAMILTON.

(No. 28.)

SIR,

Nevis, March 4, 1858.

I have the honour to forward the Blue Book for this colony for the year 1857.

2. I am happy to be able to report that the prospects of the colony have assumed a healthier aspect in consequence of the material augmentation of the Revenue.

3. On the 4th March 1857, when I assumed the administration, the fixed revenue stood thus:—

	£
Tax on Sugar Estates	1,400
,, other real Estates	300
,, Incomes	400
,, Cattle	130
,, Boats	75
Total	£ 2,305

4. On the 4th of June last I had the satisfaction to assent to an Act imposing an excise duty on rum and other spirituous liquors consumed in the island, the revenue derived from which may be estimated at - - - - £ 700

5. On the 30th of January last I assented to an Act imposing certain duties on imports, which, at the most moderate estimate, will yield - 2,000

£ 2,700

6. From this amount must be deducted the expenses of collection on excise duties, at 5 per cent. on 700*l.*, 35*l.*; customs officers' salaries, 290*l.*; Treasurer's commission, 5 per cent. on 2,700*l.*, 135*l.* - - 460

Net total - - £ 2,240

7. The amount of both these taxes is placed at the lowest estimate. I may fairly therefore assume, as the former fixed revenue remains intact, that the sources of revenue have been doubled within twelve months, should, as I confidently anticipate, the royal assent be given to the Import Act.

8. Other measures of importance have likewise progressed; among them, an Act for organizing a paid police, which has just been published. This Act, by the combination of the police constables with the revenue officers and other performance of coast guard duties, will render the force nearly self supporting through the material increase which must accrue by their supervision and consequent suppression of smuggling.

9. On my first arrival I found hybrid police in existence on sufferance; the law embodying it had expired, and the absence of legislative authority, or means to pay the men, compelled me to disband them on the 1st of last September. I have, however, the pleasing duty to perform of recording my unqualified gratification at the general peaceable and orderly behaviour of the inhabitants of Nevis; for, despite the freer scope thus afforded to outrage and lawlessness, crime has not been increased, nor have acts of violence been multiplied; and, with the exception of perhaps some occassional disorder in the town, the want of a paid police has in no other way been evidenced.

10. The Legislature have lately resolved that the gaol shall be rebuilt, a joint committee of both houses having reported, on the 29th October last, "that a gaol and house "of correction, a station for police, and a residence for the turnkey and matron should "be re-erected within the old gaol yard in Charlestown, with suitable offices." A plan and estimate accompanied the report which showed that this important building could be re-erected at the small cost of 700*l.* A high wall is already in existence enclosing the whole premises.

11. The recent augmentation of the revenue and the advanced stage of other measures which may be effected without undue pressure on any class lead me confidently to hope that the rebuilding of the gaol will be speedily undertaken and completed.

12. I refer with, I trust, justifiable satisfaction to the further results of my administration, by citing the actual relief afforded to the ill paid class of public officers, whose claims up to the 1st of last October I shall be in a position to liquidate shortly, which will leave them six months in arrears in lieu of over twelve, as was the case in March 1857. I also entertain the hope that in May, when the first instalment of the estate tax falls due, I shall be enabled to pay salaries up to the 1st of January, after making proper provision for the earthquake loan instalment. I further anticipate that, in the absence of large unforeseen contingencies, Nevis will in less than two years redeem her debt, attaining this object perhaps yet more speedily by the issue of debentures to be guaranteed by the import duties, as soon as Her Majesty's pleasure on the Act imposing them shall be known.

13. The imports present no remarkable feature; they have, as in last year, approximated more to the figure at which they stood while the imperial customs existed, and below which they immediately fell under colonial supervision. During ten years of imperial customs, from 1838 to 1847, the imports averaged 38,600*l.* (a figure which has not since been attained); from 1848 to 1855, under the colonial customs, the average was 18,554*l.* But during these years, also, the market for colonial produce was much depressed. The increase in 1856 to 34,449*l.* cannot be ascribed solely to the opening of the ports, or to the operation of free trade, as it was styled, in Nevis, though her system was not based on reciprocity. All merchandise entered Nevis free of duty from all ports and nations, which only received her produce after the collection of a heavy debt thereon. The small increase of 1,805*l.* in this last year over 1856 may be accounted for, in a great measure, by the high price ruling in the beginning of the year for all West Indian produce.

14. In some communities other means of taxing the people for the purpose of revenue may be found to answer; but, considering of what class the bulk of population of a West Indian community consists, I would reiterate the expression of my conviction that the only practicable way of collecting, and dividing the taxes equitably, in these colonies must be, for years to come, by indirect means. During the two years in which the port of Charlestown was open the import duties were not taken off, even temporally, from the peasantry, for no marked augmentation of traffic resulted, no sensible diminution of price was effected; hence, in my opinion, the remission of duties, which in any case would have been better contributed to the treasury, did not benefit the consumers but went into the pockets of the importing merchants, whilst the state lost a revenue which it was unable to replace from any other source.

15. Since the Act imposing duties on imports was proclaimed the harbour has been visited by several ships of considerable burden, quite equal to any former average at

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the same time of the year; not one vessel has failed to find a market, and as great a diminution in prices has taken place as would have resulted had the port remained open.

B. Guiana, Mar. 30, 1849.

16. The present lieutenant-governor of British Guiana, Mr. Walker, has stated in a despatch, that "it may be remarked, as illustrating how little the modification of "indirect taxes affects the comforts of the population, that, with the exception "perhaps of foreign spirits with which the country has been almost literally flooded, "no sensible diminution of price has been felt by the consumer in consequence of the "cessation of all but an almost nominal import duty."

17. My own experience leads me to repeat that which I stated in my report on the Blue Book of this colony for last year, that the abandonment of duties on imports in the West Indies is synonymous with the renunciation of a certain amount of fixed revenue. The great difficulty is to make the system work equitably; by which I mean, to protect the fair trader against the smuggler; when this is effected, I do not conceive that either the commerce of the island or the interests of any class suffer by the imposition of a moderate and well adjusted tariff.

18. The value of the exports amounts to nearly double that of last year, standing thus: for 1856, 27,404*l.*; for 1857, 57,954*l.*; or 1,357 hogsheads of sugar in 1856, valued at 15*l.* a hogshead, against 2,075 hogsheads in 1857, valued at 20*l.* a hogshead; rum and molasses making up the balances. The values I consider are placed at a very low figure; but if 18*l.* to 20*l.* a hogshead could be always realized for sugar, these depressed colonies would soon assume a different aspect, while a higher price is scarcely desirable, as it cannot be maintained; and great fluctuation is too apt to lead men in business with small means into speculations too often resulting in their ruin.

19. I regret to say that, in consequence of the great financial depression which has existed up to the present moment, I have not been able to ask for any grants in aid of education, or medical attendance for the poor, more particularly required for the preservation of human life in infancy. I have not lost sight of these important subjects, and I shall not pretermit any occasion to advocate the extension of these civilizing and salutary influences.

20. An Act highly creditable to the community has passed the legislature of this island and only awaits the royal sanction; by it a pension is granted, which, under the circumstances of the colony is on a liberal scale, to the late Colonial Secretary, who filled that office for thirty years.

21. The seasons have been unusually favourable, and with the prospects of a large crop, Nevis has room to hope for better days, as she puts forth some signs of a revival of former prosperity.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ARTHUR RUMBOLD.

His Excellency the Governor-in-Chief.
&c. &c. &c.

VIRGIN ISLANDS.

VIRGIN ISLANDS.

No. 22.

No. 22.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor HAMILTON to the Right Hon. Lord STANLEY.
(No. 53.)

Leeward Islands, Antigua, May 21, 1858
Received June 15, 1858.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship a Despatch from the President
Enclosure. of the Virgin Islands, forwarding the Blue Book of the colony for the year 1857.

2. In reporting to your Lordship my annual tour of inspection of some of the colonies in this government, I referred to the energetic endeavours of Mr. President Price to promote the growth of cotton in Tortola, and re-open the copper mine at Virgin Gorda He will, I am sure, also use his best exertions to improve the financial system of the colony, and the state of the prison, to which I have particularly called his attention.

3. The President reports the conduct of the black population as orderly in general, although many young people of both sexes are corrupted by the licentious habits prevailing at the coaling station of Saint Thomas, to which they resort for employment.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. Lord Stanley, &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) KER B. HAMILTON.

Enclosure 1. in No. 22.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Mr. President PRICE to Governor HAMILTON.

(No. 19.)

SIR, Government House, Tortola, March 23, 1858

I HAVE the honour to transmit the Blue Book for the British Virgin Islands for the year 1857.

2. The year 1857 opened with a small cash credit of 5*l.* 4*s.* 0½*d.*, and an outstanding amount of arrears of salary to public officers of 70*l.* 11*s.* 8*d.*, and closed with a credit of 24*l.* 14*s.* 11½*d.*, and a debt to public officers of 296*l.* 12*s.* 11½*d.*, the net balance against the treasury being 271*l.* 18*s.*

A small loan contracted in 1854, for the purpose of effecting at a moment of embarrassment some compromise with unpaid public officers, has been partially liquidated during the past year, as also have some few claims outstanding from the year 1856; but as no prevision was exercised by the legislature to make arrangements for these contingencies, and the long expected and hoped for wreck at Anegada did not come to the relief of the exchequer during the past year, it follows that these payments of liabilities have been effected at a sacrifice, the public officers being, as seems to be warranted by a time-honoured usage of very doubtful honesty, the sufferers. The revenue and expenditure for the year do not seem to present any other features which call for remark. The former seems to have reached that degree of regularity which is necessary to enable me to say, that it equals the ordinary yearly expenditure, but it leaves no margin for payment of debt or for provision against contingencies; and the outstanding claims against the colony, trifling though they may be in amount, will inevitably prove a source of much embarrassment in after years, unless some effort be speedily made for increasing the revenue by some 300*l.* or 400*l.* a year.

3. At present it is worthy of remark, that the ordinary income of the Virgin Islands is as nearly as possible equivalent to the amount which Great Britain annually contributes for the maintenance of the establishment, and as the ordinary income about balances the ordinary expenditure. Great Britain therefore contributes as much as one half of the whole expenditure for local government.

Imports and Exports.

4. The total value of the imports for 1857 was 5,634*l.* 7*s.* 4*d.* The total value of the exports for 1857 was 10,848*l.* 15*s.* 7*d.*

5. Of the former, about 1,000*l.* worth came by way of British colonies, and the balance from Saint Thomas. Of the exports, also, Saint Thomas took to the value of 9,302*l.* 9*s.* 9*d.* There are neither imports nor exports direct from or to Europe at the Virgin Islands. The trade, once flourishing, has entirely ceased, and is not likely to revive, until there shall be re-established some staple commodity as an article of export. The article of sugar, I fear, scarcely contributes to our present exports more than what would load one vessel of from 70 to 80 tons within the year.

Legislation.

6. The ordinances passed during the year 1857 were as follows:

"An ordinance for further shortening the language used in ordinances of the legislature of the Virgin Islands."

"An ordinance to continue in force an Act to impose a tax or impost on all sales made at public auction or outcry, and to compel persons exercising the office or employment of auctioneer to take out licence, and also to compel purchasers, under a penalty, to complete their purchase or purchases."

"An ordinance to repeal the thirteenth clause of an Act, entitled 'An Act to impose a tax or impost on all sales made at public auction or outcry, and to compel persons

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exercising the office or employment of auctioneer to take out licence, and to compel purchasers, under a penalty, to complete their purchase or purchases.' "

" An ordinance to levy a duty on exports."

" An ordinance for granting mercantile licences, licences to hucksters, and spirits licences, and for levying a duty on the retail sale of spirituous liquors, wines, and malt liquors within the Virgin Islands."

" An ordinance to amend the cattle tax ordinance, 1855."

" An ordinance for printing the laws of these islands, and for other purposes."

" An ordinance to amend the boat licence, 1855."

" An ordinance to amend the general tax ordinance, 1855."

" An ordinance to repeal an Act, entitled ' An Act to license the sale by retail of the sugar cane and its products.' "

" An ordinance for the payment of costs in proceedings instituted on behalf of the Crown in matters relating to the revenue."

" An ordinance for regulating the register office and conduct of the registrar, and appointing his salary and fixing the fees of office."

" An ordinance to amend an ordinance, entitled ' An ordinance to repeal an Act of the Virgin Islands commonly called ' The Road Act for 1844,' and an Act commonly called ' The Amended Road Act for 1854,' and to make other provision in lieu thereof,' dated the sixth day of July 1855."

" An ordinance to extend the summary jurisdiction of the general court of the Virgin Islands in complaint actions." And

" An ordinance to amend the pound ordinance, 1856."

All of which have been so fully reported upon already on the occasion of their transmission as to call for no further remark here.

There were fourteen sittings of the Legislative Council during the year.

Financial Prospects.

7. The principle of indirect taxation having been, as I think, so wisely abandoned in this scattered colony, the policy of recent legislation has been to spread the levies necessary for the establishment over a variety of direct objects. It has been so widely diffused that it becomes a matter of some difficulty to pronounce any confident opinion as to the financial result of any given period of time. The export duties particularly are dependant upon a demand for our produce at the Island of Saint Thomas, and this is a resource which the British Virgin Islands are not, I think, likely to monopolize for all time. The abandonment of various sugar properties in the Danish Island of Saint John, as well as the attempts which are daily being developed in Saint Thomas itself to render it less dependant on our islands, are causes which may be expected to affect us prejudicially; and the public income from duty on exports being derived principally from necessaries which either of those foreign islands could equally well supply, should my apprehensions have foundation the revenue must ultimately suffer. The contingency is perhaps, however, remote, and in the meantime Saint Thomas is so regular an outlet for superfluous stock that for the next few years I think the export duties may not be sensibly affected. The increase in any other branch of revenue seems to depend upon the social improvement of our general population, since it is derived principally from a tax upon a particular class of houses, upon cattle and horses, and upon incomes above 25*l.* per annum.

8. The year under revision has closed, as did the previous one, with a small debt due to the public officers, large enough, however, to require some new taxation, to avoid a similar contingency for the future, and to adjust the present excess of outlay.

9. The simple, and perhaps, under our circumstances, politic expedient of a small land tax, appears to meet with more favour now than was formerly accorded to it; and although there exists, as I shall have occasion to remark, under the head of " Agriculture," a large " landed interest " somewhat unreasonably opposed to such a measure, I am not without hopes of seeing the principle tested. However this may be, I think the experiences of 1857 will have fully exhibited the folly of depending upon the reefs of Anegada as a regular source of income, through the favouring agency of wrecks, and the duties which they contribute to the treasury, and that the inconvenience and injustice of habitually leaving public officers in arrear is in course of fuller appreciation, so that I am much disposed to anticipate a more favourable state of finance next Christmas than that which marked the bygone year. The prospects of the crop of 1858, and the condition of the labouring classes, are certainly sufficiently cheering (comparatively speaking) to justify the expectation that the revenue will at least suffer no diminution.

Agriculture.

10. The state of agriculture in the British Virgin Islands is, as it seems ever to have been, of the most unrefined and profitless description that it is possible to conceive, while there are valleys of high natural fertility, and slopes on the adjacent hills, where such implements could be most profitably employed. I think I am right in saying that at this moment there is neither to be found a plough or horse hoe within this Government. The rude and inefficient implement handed down to the negro by his slave progenitors is still regarded as the "summum bonum" on the sugar estate, and when to this primeval tillage is added the almost entire disregard of the fructifying influences of manure, it is scarcely a subject for astonishment, that the crop of a favourable season should not exceed some 125 hogsheads of sugar. Were I to carry my observations into the manufactory, or point to the ill-used and sadly galled animals which contribute their questionable strength in the process of grinding the canes, the same conviction follows, that some new stimulus is necessary to awaken the planters of Tortola from the lethargy in which they have so long indulged. For much of the carelessness perhaps the métairie system, as it here exists, is answerable. I know of only one planter who by payment of money for service retains in his own hands any power of controlling the issue of his enterprise as a farmer. With this exception, the rule is for the associated labourers to cultivate almost when and how they please, certainly without any systematic and salutary direction, and to wait patiently for the day of settlement, when they receive their quota, generally one half of the crop, the planter placing his works and stocks at their entire disposal for the purpose of its manufacture. Neither does the remuneration which the labourer thus receives for his services appear to me to be adequate to the advantages enjoyed by the people in islands where a money payment is the rule and the share system an exception, nor does the proprietor receive anything like an equivalent for the capital embarked. Still it is perhaps beyond the limited means of either the absentee or resident proprietors to offer our people anything better at present, or sensibly to improve their own position; but the spare time of the steady and industrious negro is not unprofitably spent in labour for the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company at Saint Thomas; while the planter rather depends upon the produce of his flocks and herds than on the particular industry which furnishes his title and designation.

11. The remarks which I have here made do not seem to be so justly applicable to minor branches of agricultural industry. The patches of garden culture, where almost every description of tropical vegetable may be seen in tolerable luxuriance, even at the highest points of our lofty hills, prove satisfactorily that wherever the negro has by the absolute purchase of land obtained an interest in its productiveness that productiveness is in fair process of development. He has become as it were a part of the soil on which he stands. There is a mutual dependence, and the result is all that may be fairly expected at this early date.

12. Unhappily, however, the growth of a peasant proprietary is very much retarded by the circumstances of the country. Much of the land is in the hands of receivers of the court of chancery, and this has attached a suspicion in the mind of the negro to land not in reality so encumbered. He is naturally cautious in his bargains; and although he may be tempted by very advantageous terms as to payment, he seems reluctant to engage in the purchase of any property to which his title cannot be proved to be beyond question. Hence there exist immense tracts of land overrun with bush, utterly useless to the proprietor, utterly unprofitable to the State, but containing resources of the highest value to both, with no obligation to cultivate, and with many impediments beyond disinclination in the way of sale to the labourer. The proprietor may indeed boast of his extended demesne (sometimes several thousands of acres), and yet live in a condition of very doubtful prosperity, constantly hoping for better days, but putting forth for the most part none of his energies for their attainment. I regret to add, that I see little hope of improvement in the cultivation of land in this colony until absolute pressure by the Legislature may for ever break up the system which so unhappily weighs upon it. Meantime, the proximity of Saint Thomas, with its never failing market, offers ample encouragement to small cultivators, to our charcoal burners (a great inducement for the clearing of land), as well as to our fishermen, so that, although there is undoubtedly much room for improvement, no industrious man need ever want the means of existence in the Virgin Islands.

13. On a review of the agricultural features of the Virgin Islands, particularly when taken in connexion with the present deficiency of available labour for extensive field operations, the conclusion which has been so much favoured by others of larger experience than myself is fully participated by me, namely, that they are far better

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adapted for the raising of stock than, with the exception perhaps of that of cotton or coffee, any other industry whatever. The fine pastures of both guinea and running grass, reaching to the summits of the mountains, afford almost endless resources to the breeder of stock of all descriptions. The judicious selection of blood for the improvement of the present races seems to be all that is required to render the Virgin Islands capable of supplying a very large proportion of the annual deficiencies of stock throughout the Leeward Islands. The breed of ponies of from 12½ to 13½ hands high is distinguished for many excellent points. Endurance, and admirable feet to sustain the shocks inseparable from running amongst rugged hills, with light and active frames, mark these animals as particularly well fitted for crossing with larger horses. A slight increase in the size of the mares would infallibly lead to the establishment of mule breeding on a more satisfactory plan; and when I add that each of these animals at 3 years old will command from $100 to $130 in any of the Leeward Islands, and that the cost of rearing them is so small as to be scarcely appreciable (certainly not more than 50*s.* a head), the profits of this particular enterprise will be sufficiently apparent. Horned cattled too afford, by sale of fat animals and of butter and milk, an equally remunerative employment for small capital.

14. Of the 37,000 acres of land embraced in the British Virgin Islands, probably as many as one half are admirably suited for the production of cotton; indeed in former days this industry flourished to a considerable and profitable extent. The causes which have contributed to its abandonment have been so clearly delineated by the late Mr. G. R. Porter in his work "Tropical Agriculturist," Smith and Elder, 1833, p.p. 12 and 13, that it would be superfluous for me to remark upon them, except that my own observations and experiments in the growth of cotton entirely confirm what that lamented gentleman has so well advanced. I see no reason, beyond the question of labour supply, why the Virgin Islands should not produce, from cleared land, cotton of the finest descriptions, at the rate of at least one and a half bales of 300 pounds each per acre, and at a cost on the sea shore of about 2*d.* sterling per pound. The planter is always favoured with two and sometimes with three full pickings annually, and, once established, the cotton plant remains in full luxuriance for fully four or five years, a great advantage enjoyed over the planters in the States of America in this particular. An experiment has been made here by some gentlemen, associated at my suggestion for the purpose, which, notwithstanding the rather heavy cost of clearing the land from underwood, has fully satisfied my mind (if the former large exports of cotton required confirmation of this character) that what is perhaps beyond the capability of any other British settlements in the West Indies, the Islands of Tortola, Virgin Gorda, and the adjacent quays, are capable of making, with a due supply of labour, an annual impression upon the Manchester Markets to the extent of 20,000 bales of the article under discussion. The importation of suitable gins, and careful selection of varieties, would probably lead to further experimental successes, which might ultimately attract capital and labour to give them full effect. The importance of this subject to the Virgin Islands is greatly enhanced by the fact that in them the industries of cotton planting and stock breeding may proceed simultaneously and without at all interfering with each other.

Appendix A.

15. To conclude this branch of my Report, I may state that the Sea Island cotton, which has attained such celebrity in the English markets, is supposed, on tolerably good testimony, to have been found indigenous in the Island of Anguilla (some 70 miles hence), whence it passed, through intermediate culture in the Bahama Islands, into Georgia, where it now forms the staple export. Proof sufficient of the capability of the Caribbean Islands to compete with the "Sea Islands" of the southern States of America in its production, as far as quality is concerned, while varieties of probably equal or greater value, such as the "Siam" cotton, will not ripen in the latter islands, although in Tortola it will yield two crops annually.

Common Gaol and Crime.

16. Only two capital offences have marked the record of crime for 1857.

One, of the murder of his friend, while the perpetrator was under the combined influences of liquor, an ungovernable temper, and jealousy; the other one of rape. The other commitments have been for petty offences against the person and property.

17. The condition of the common gaol, I regret to say, continues to justify the report made for 1854 by the inspector of prisons. Lunatics, debtors, criminals, and minor offenders, as well as persons awaiting trial, are confined under the same roof, and the means of classification are of the most limited description.

The recommendations on this subject which have from time to time emanated from the Home Government as well as from the presiding officers have, in common with equally useful suggestions for improvement in other essentials, been met with the plea of

financial embarrassment. It is in some measure favourable to this continued disregard of public improvement, that on the whole the people of the Virgin Islands have, of late years, furnished but few objects for criminal prosecutions. VIRGIN ISLANDS.

I append a report upon the state of crime for the year 1857 from Mr. Stipendiary Justice and Queen's Counsel, Charles Lloyd. Appendix B.

Public Buildings.

18. The foregoing observations on the common gaol meet with some confirmation from the present untenantable condition of four solitary cells. A device for increasing accommodation of this nature, by partitioning one of the larger wards, was carried out, with my sanction, during the past year; but this must be regarded as a merely temporary expedient, and I think that the building will shortly receive such additions and repairs as may take it out of the category in which tourists have been in the habit of placing West Indian houses of correction.

19. The other "public buildings," startling as such an appellation may be as applied to such edifices, are probably, however defective, in as good a state of repair as the colony can easily afford or the climate require.

Education.

20. The hopes held out by my predecessor in the administration of the government, on the diffusion of knowledge amongst the "rising generation," have, so far, met with very partial realization. The report which I annex, from the officiating minister, on the condition of the schools, discloses inefficiency on the part of some of the superintendents, and great irregularity in the attendance of the pupils. The gratuitous education proffered by the Church Establishment receives no preference over that which the Wesleyans supply for a very moderate remuneration to a large assembly of children. The extension of Church principles being confined to the immediate district surrounding the town of Road Harbour, it results that the chapels in the remote situations have fallen into decay, and little more than the name remains, as a record of past exertions, to attach the population to the Establishment. Appendix C.

21. The regularity and perseverance exhibited by the Wesleyan missionaries in the promulgation of their religious views have met, as might have been augured, the most complete success; and, unprovided as the Church seems to be here with the means of systematic instruction, and the spirit necessary for a successful result, it is a subject for regret that the more active hands of the Wesleyan preachers are not more liberally supplied with the means of educating the youthful population. No provision whatever is made by the Legislative Council for the diffusion of knowledge. I have a lively satisfaction, however, in appending a report from the Wesleyan missionaries, which sufficiently discloses the nature and effect of their unpretending exertions in the cause of education for the labouring classes. Appendix D.

Concluding Remarks.

22. Perhaps in no part of the British West Indian colonies is the evidence of the effect of the great measure of 1834 more striking than in the Virgin Islands. In none have the depreciation of "estates" on the one hand, and the improvement of the negro's physical condition on the other, presented stronger examples of the searching effects of the policy which dictated that measure. The old dominant race of West India planters, with their handsome hospitality, their regardlessness of the events of the morrow, their gambling, horse racing, and cockfighting, has vanished from the scene, and given place to a well-tempered thrift, and a stern anxiety for the future.

The representatives of that class indeed inherit to the full extent the open-handed liberality which distinguished their ancestors; but the fire burns without the necessary fuel, and, sad though it may be to contemplate the reduced condition of many most estimable circles, a lesson is engraven on the hills of Tortola, from which experiences cannot fail to flow, and to afford in future days a source of solid, if moderate, prosperity.

That the process of elevation of the youth of the decayed class will be rapid there is perhaps little hope, for the habit of waiting upon fortune, and the utter disinclination to adopt modest hard-working employment, which still clings to the race, are so stubbornly ingrained as to preclude for the present any such expectations. Still there becomes daily attached to idleness more odium, and to depravity more shame, and we are not wholly without examples of the silent working of better principles, of more self-dependence, more anxiety to mark out a career of usefulness.

23. If we turn to the more prosperous "lower" class, we find them for the most part engaged in not unprofitable pursuits; many in the possession of comfortable houses and

VIRGIN ISLANDS.

well-fed flocks and herds, well clothed, and with an air of independence, not unaccompanied by respectful demeanor, which certainly ought to delight the friends of emancipation. The events of 1853, which led to the almost entire destruction of the only town in the Virgin Islands, appear to be reflected upon with much regret; and, upon the whole, I know of no community of negroes in the West Indies more orderly in their general behaviour, or more likely to afford a favourable example of peasant proprietary, were the means placed nearer within reach. This picture, however, requires a little shading from the mischievous proximity, in some respects, of the island of Saint Thomas. This great outlet for unemployed labour, while it offers many temptations to the steady workman, is, I fear, productive, amongst the youth of our islands, of very lamentable results in a social point of view.

Depravity of every shade may there be freely indulged in, and certainly has so fearfully tinged the young of both sexes as to give rise to grave apprehensions.

24. Probably no more painful example of the baneful effects of long association with the scenes of the coaling wharves at St. Thomas can be found than the utter disrespect and disregard with which their own parents are habitually treated by these young people. On all sides I meet with complaints on this sad subject. The aged are thus left without the support they so much require, and have such a right to expect; and many a comfortable home has been made desolate by the destructive influences prevailing at this great emporium of the West Indies. The remedy can only be found in more solid inducements to remain at home, in the influx of capital to develope our mineral and other resources, and by the extension of better principles through the medium of the schoolmaster. The selection, therefore, of St. Thomas, as a rendezvous for the mail steamers, in preference to a much more convenient and healthy harbour within this Government, has, in my opinion, entailed social consequences on the population of the British Virgin Islands which no commercial advantages from its proximity can in any degree counterbalance. But this is a subject scarcely belonging to a report of this character, although it appears impossible to pass over a circumstance which exercises beyond a doubt so much influence on the social condition of this colony.

I have, &c.

(Signed) T. PRICE,
President administering the Government
of the British Virgin Islands.

His Excellency Governor Hamilton,
Antigua.

APPENDIX A.

The cultivation of cotton, which was carried on to a considerable extent in former years in our West India colonies, has of late been almost entirely abandoned there, because the prices in this article in the markets of Europe have fallen so low as to be no longer remunerative, and plantations, which once maintained their proprietors in affluence, would not, if similarly managed, now repay the current expenses of their cultivation.

How are we to account for this reduction in prices? Not certainly from any falling-off in the demand, which is so far from being diminished that from year to year it has been advancing after a steady and important rate of progression. Nor yet can this fall in the money value of cotton be ascribed to the discovery of any new source of supply from countries where its cultivation is conducted at a diminished cost, since the principal importations are obtained from a country, the southern parts of the United States of America, where, although land is cheap, daily labour is uniformly dear, and the climate is assuredly not more favourable than is that of the West Indies to the perfection of the plant. The high prices of former times occasioned a great degree of carelessness on the part of the planters, who for that reason were not in a situation to meet the depression of prices occasioned by the increasing supplies raised in the United States. But to what cause are we to attribute the constant augmentation of growth in that country, in the face of a reduction in prices which has driven the West Indian cultivator from the market, unless it be to a greater degree of productiveness in the varieties cultivated, joined probably to greater agricultural knowledge? If there be any foundation for this opinion, the same course is obviously and equally open to the planters in our own Western Colonies, several of which are known to be admirably fitted by nature for this branch of husbandry.

It is allowed to be a difficult task, and one which has rarely been attended with success, to attempt the re-establishment in any country of pursuits that have once been laid aside as unprofitable; but in the present state of the West India Colonies the necessity for some effort of this nature seems to be urgent, and it is hoped that the circumstance here pointed out may show at least the possibility of attaining to better success than formerly, provided careful and judicious modes of cultivation be adopted.

APPENDIX (B.)

VIRGIN ISLANDS.

CRIME and OFFENCES from 1st January to 31st December 1857.

Number.	Nature of Offence.	Law.
	Convictions at the General Court.	
1	Murder	Common law.
1	Accessory after the fact to murder	Offences against the Person Act, 1842.
2	Manslaughter	Common Law.
1	Maiming a horse	Malicious Injuries to Property Act 1842.
1	Larceny of gold ring and keys in house	Larceny Act, 1842.
1	Stealing sugar in a curing house	Ditto.
1	Stealing a cow	Ditto.
1	Rape	Common Law.
1	Wounding	Offences against the Person Act, 1842.
2	Non-attendance as jurors	General Court Ordinance, 1856.
12		
	Summary Convictions by Justices of the Peace.	
45	Petty assaults and batteries	Assault and Battery Act, 1847.
11	Petty larcenies, under 2*l.* 10*s.* value	Larceny Act, 1842.
3	Malicious injuries to property, under 2*l.* 10*s.* value.	Malicious Injuries to Property Act, 1842.
34	Indecent language	Good Order and Decorum Act, 1846.
6	Quarrelling and fighting	Ditto.
1	Throwing stones	Ditto.
1	Furious riding	Ditto.
1	Rogue and vagabond	Vagrant Act, 1839.
1	Practising obeah	Ditto.
2	Trespass	Trespass Act, 1849.
11	Neglecting to deliver per-centage of salt	Salt Pond Ordinance, 1856.
1	Non-attendance to repair public roads	Road Ordinance, 1855.
5	Breach of revenue law	Export Ordinance, 1857.
1	Rescue of a cow	Pound Ordinance, 1856.
1	Committed for contempt at coroner's inquest	Common Law.
136		
19	Riot	Common Law.

The cases of riot at Thatch Island are included in the present return, as the parties were convicted in 1857, although the offences were committed in 1856. The details have been already reported, and it is only necessary to observe that the transaction was serious only as being committed on a remote cay, and if unpunished might have proved of vicious example.

It may be fairly considered that convictions were not so numerous as in past years. Those at the general court, except the rape, were not of an atrocious character, and those by justices of the peace were generally for offences of a very trifling nature.

(Signed) CHARLES LLOYD
Stipendiary Justice.

15th March 1858.

APPENDIX (C.)

SCHOOL REPORT.

No. 1. St. George's School, Road Town.

Mistress.—Jane Pickering.

Salary.—$ 24 per quarter, allowed by Lord Bishop from Christian Faith Society. House room allowed by public.

Schoolroom.—A few repairs needed.

Scholars.—42 (boys 20, girls 22). Daily average attendance, about 29.

State of School.—Not efficient. Causes thereof, several; chiefly the following; viz., inefficiency of mistress; irregularity in daily and hourly attendance of the children; difficulties in the way of carrying out proper discipline in school, by either mistress or officiating minister; the lax state of filial obedience; the negligence of parents, or those who stand in their stead; children being employed for portions of the day and week at home; facilities afforded by numerous other schools for receiving children who from dislike or other causes leave one school for another.

VIRGIN ISLANDS.

Books.—A few are wanted. There are no means at the disposal of the minister for furnishing them. ($ 3 58 was in 1856 placed at my disposal by the bishop and president; I do not know exactly from what source. The sum was expended in copy books, &c., which are supplied to the children at cost price, and in some cases gratis). The Christian Knowledge Society forwarded in February 1856 a grant of books, &c. to the value of 6*l.*, *with the hope* of calling forth other efforts in these islands by purchases from the society's catalogue.

No. 2. St. Philip's School at Kingstown.

Mistress.—Catherine Chalwill.
Salary.—$ 23 per quarter, from same source as in No. 1.
Chapel Schoolroom.—In much need of repair.
Scholars.—40 (boys 18, girls 22). Regular attendants, 25.
State of School.—Not in as good order as desirable. Causes, with one or two exceptions and additions, similar to those adduced in School No. 1.
Books, &c.—A few required; no funds to supply them.

No. 3. Church School at Virgin Gorda.

Master.—William Gibbs Vanterpool.
Salary.—Same as in No. 2., and from same source.
Chapel Schoolroom.—In much need of repair.
Scholars.—42; daily attendance, 20–24. Many of the scholars have lately been absent from sickness. The daily attendance was larger previously to last report received from schoolmaster.
State of School.—Progressing favourably and satisfactorily when last visited, and by accounts since received.
Books, &c.—Schoolmaster is of opinion that a few rewards given to the most deserving scholars would be productive of beneficial effects on the whole school. No means at disposal of minister to purchase the above or any other books, &c.

(Signed) ROBERT MATSON,
Officiating Minister.

Tortola, February 3, 1858.

APPENDIX D.

REPORT of the Wesleyan Day and Sunday Schools in the British Virgin Islands.

TORTOLA.

In this island the Wesleyan methodists have five schools in useful operation.

The day school in Road Town numbers 40 boys, 14 girls; total 54. In this school there are 34 who are reading the Scriptures daily, and can write and spell correctly; 6 of them are making some proficiency in the knowledge of grammar and geography.

The day school at the West End numbers 19 boys and 21 girls; total 40. In this school there are twenty children who can accurately read the Word of God, and fifteen who are writing in copy books.

We have three Sunday schools in this Island; viz. one at Road Town, West End, East End. In connexion with these schools, there are 446 children and adults who are taught on the sabbath day by thirty-eight gratuitous teachers their duty to God, to their parents, and to their superiors. Many of them are giving pleasing evidence that they "fear God and keep his commandments." Our day school teachers are supported partly by children's fees, and the remainder is made up by the Wesleyan society, which at present is quite independent of the funds in England.

JOST VAN DYKES.

In this island the Wesleyan methodists have a day and Sunday school. In the former there are twenty-nine children; eight of them are writing in copy books, and eighteen of them can read very correctly.

The school held on the sabbath numbers fifty, the majority of which can read sufficiently correct as to be able to use the prayer book during the morning service on the Lord's day.

We hope shortly to have a school at Thatch Island, where there are a good number of children growing up in ignorance.

Tortola, March 9, 1858.

(Signed) SAMUEL SIMONS,
Wesleyan Missionary.

DOMINICA.

No. 23.

No. 23.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor HAMILTON to the Right Honourable Sir EDWARD BULWER LYTTON, Bart., M.P.

(No. 33.)

Leeward Islands, Antigua,
July 3, 1858.

SIR,

(Received August 2, 1858.)

I HAVE the honour to transmit a Despatch from the Lieutenant Governor of Dominica, forwarding the Blue Book of the Colony for the year 1857.

2. The disturbances which occurred in relation to the Rum Duty Act have entirely ceased, and the opposition to the Road Act is disappearing.

3. I trust that Lieutenant Governor Ord will not be disappointed in his expectation of a sufficient revenue; but, while there remains a loan borrowed from the Government, for the repayment of which adequate provision has not been made, the financial condition of the island cannot be reported as satisfactory.

I have, &c.
(Signed) KER B. HAMILTON.

The Right Hon. Sir E. Bulwer Lytton, Bart.,
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure in No. 23.

Encl. in No. 23.

(No. 29.)

Government House, Roseau,
March 26, 1858.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Excellency the Blue Book for the year 1857 in triplicate. As I only assumed the Government of this colony on the 5th November last, a small portion of the year to which the Blue Book actually relates has come under my observation; I cannot therefore venture to do more than offer a few general remarks upon its statements.

2. *Revenue and Expenditure.*—The general revenue of the colony exhibits an increase of 1,600*l.* over that of the preceding year; but, from the amount received in 1856, must be deducted upwards of 400*l.* due on account of house tax in 1855, which will raise the actual receipts for the past year to 2,000*l.* over those of 1856. Of this amount about 1,100*l.* is due to the temporary augmentation of the duties received under the General Tax Act, which by Act of the Legislature, passed in September 1856, were raised 50 per cent. until 31st December 1857. There has been a falling off of about 100*l.* in imports, and an increase of rather less in tonnage receipts, whilst the Rum and Road Acts have furnished an addition to the revenue of upwards of 700*l.* On analysing these amounts it appears that the actual receipts under the General Tax Act were 54 per cent more than those of 1856, showing an actual gain of 4 per cent. The imports and tonnage nearly balance each other, and the receipts under the Rum Act were augmented at the rate of 43 per cent. The Road Act also gave an increase of about 8 per cent., but as this fund is appropriated solely to the purposes for which it is collected, its variations cannot be considered as affecting the general revenue.

Although it would be unsafe in a colony whose prosperity depends so entirely upon the value realized by its crops of sugar to speculate too freely what a year may bring forth, I think that the prospects of revenue for the ensuing year are not unsatisfactory; indeed, considering that the Rum Act is producing, without complaint or discontent, such a valuable addition to the revenue, I am of opinion that we possess the means of relieving ourselves at any time from financial difficulty, and, if it be thought expedient, of altering the existing system of taxation by an increase of this duty, without fear of opposition or difficulty of any sort.

The expenditure calls for no particular observation. There has been a saving of nearly 500*l.* on the educational grant, from the Roman Catholic Bishop having declined to avail himself of the provisions of the new Act, under which assistance can alone be granted to his schools. On the roads there has been a large increase of expenditure, arising from the funds collected during the previous year not having been laid out upon them; and the expense of rebuilding Government House, and fitting up a public building

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for the occupation of the treasurer and other public officers, has largely increased the charge under the head "Miscellaneous." On the whole there has been a small balance of revenue over expenditure.

3. *Public Debt.*—No measures have been taken for the extinction of the large amount still due on account of the Hurricane Loan, 1834, but I am about to make proposals with reference to this debt which I trust may be favourably considered.

4. *Public Works.*—The expenditure under this head during the past year has been of unusual magnitude, amounting to about 2,000*l.* or nearly one-seventh of the whole revenue of the Colony. The greater part of this has been incurred on the new government house which is now in a forward state of completion, and will probably be ready for occupation about Midsummer; the fitting up of the old police station, a massive stone building the property of the Colony, as offices for the Treasurer and Auditor-General, has also been commenced; these two buildings will still require a considerable outlay before they are completed, but they are both services of which the Colony was much in need, and the construction of the latter will relieve it from a charge of 80*l.* per annum now paid for rent of offices.

5. *Legislation.*—Legislation has advanced at its ordinary slow pace during the past year. The Educational Bill has been replaced by another which is to have a five years' trial, and which as yet gives but little promise of success, the Roman Catholic Bishop having declared against it.

The General Tax Act has also been renewed for three years, with but few variations from the former Act.

These two measures were passed on the 30th September and 31st December respectively, and they are the sole results of the labours of the two legislative bodies for a whole year. A better illustration of the practical working of the system of legislation which exists in these colonies could not be produced if it were required.

6. *Gaols and Prisoners.*—The return which the Provost Marshal is in the habit of transmitting with the Blue Book, and which is a most valuable addition to the criminal statistics of the Island, shows that the actual number of convictions during the past year has been largely augmented. On analysing the character of these convictions, I find that a very large proportion of these are due to prosecutions under the Road Act of 1856, which was made the subject of great excitement and opposition at the commencement of the year, in the first three months of which 130 persons were committed for breaches of the Act, but as this excitement subsided these numbers have decreased considerably and do not now average 10 per month; if therefore, a deduction be made of this new class of offences which this Act has created, it will be found that the total number of commitments for offences punishable in former years is but 218, a smaller number than has been recorded in any year since 1851. In other respects the present year calendar presents, in the absence of serious offences, a favourable contrast with that of previous years; and, bearing in mind the summary character of the punishment which is awarded under the Road Act for any attempt at evasion of the tax, and also that the offence which forms so large a part of the charges upon which commitments take place is one that is nowhere viewed as a very serious character, I think the criminal condition of the people cannot be said to be otherwise than satisfactory.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. ST. GEORGE ORD,
Lieut-Governor.

Sir E. Bulwer Lytton, Bart. M.P.
&c. &c. &c.

MAURITIUS.

No. 24.

Copy of DESPATCH from Governor Stevenson to the Right Honourable Sir E. B. Lytton, Bart.

(No. 187.)

Mauritius, August 26, 1858.

Sir, (Received October 19, 1858.)

In obedience to standing instructions, I beg leave to transmit herewith the Blue Book for 1857, together with the Annual Report on the general condition and prospects of the Colony.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. Sir E. B. Lytton, Bart. (Signed) WILLIAM STEVENSON.
&c. &c. &c.

Encl. in No.

Revenue and Expenditure.

Mauritius, August 20, 1858.

1. The real Revenue of 1857 (exclusive of deposits, advances, and loans, which are added to the statement of apparent Revenue,) was 438,000*l.*, being an increase of about 52,000*l.* over that of 1856, which was about 386,700*l.*

2. And the real Expenditure of 1857 was 371,812*l.*, being an excess of 62,025 over that of 1856, which was 309,787*l.*

3. The items which principally produce this increase of Revenue are:—Imports, 17,813*l.*; Harbour Dues, 1,358*l.*; Sale of Liquors, 10,629*l.*; Licences, 4,095*l.*; Registration Dues, 6,329*l.*; Fines and Fees, 3,894*l.*; and Reimbursements, 7,856*l.*; while the only item of decrease arose out of the sale in 1856 of a house which had been occupied by the late Chief Justice Wilson, and of some Government land near the harbour.

4. The chief items of excess of Expenditure are to be found under the heads of "Revenue Services," 1,630*l.*, for a large purchase of coals; "Administration of Justice," 1,985*l.*, in the prosecution of Margeot; "Charitable Allowances," 1,094*l.*, contribution to the Sailors' Home; "Conveyance of Mails," 4,794*l.*, arising out of the new Postal Contract, which had not commenced in 1856; "Works and Buildings," 23,592*l.*; "Civil Stores," 2,165*l.*, increase in the price of rice; "Immigration," 15,735*l.*, and "East India Company" 1,310*l.*

5. The financial condition of the country still presents a very flourishing appearance, the sum of 71,000*l.* of surplus Revenue having been remitted to the Agent in the course of last year, at the end of which there had been invested in the funds, to the credit of the Government, the sum of 219,397*l.*, and in the names of the Commissioners of Currency the sum of 96,640*l.*; and this independently of the money in the Treasury vaults and that under the control of the Commissioners of the Currency, which latter make more than ample provision for all our notes in circulation.

6. During that year there have also been loans effected for the Savings' Bank to the extent of 21,600*l.*, being more than double those that were effected during the previous year.

7. This latter institution, which is managed by a branch of the Treasury, yields a fair profit to the Revenues. It has existed since the year 1837, and during those 21 years the aggregate profit has been 20,612*l.*, and the aggregate loss 1,896*l.*, leaving a net profit of 18,715*l.* at the end of 1857, or an average net profit of about 872*l.* per annum.

8. If I succeed in satisfying the Secretary of State in the representations that I have already made and am about to make as to the Public Works and other items of permanent Expenditure strictly required for the Colony, and many of which ought long since to have been provided for a large part of our invested surplus Revenues will soon be brought into legitimate public use, for those Government undertakings which have become necessary in consequence of the great improvements in our agricultural and mercantile position, and by the alteration in some of our constitutional requirements.

9. I only fear that many of these necessary items of Expenditure have already been too long delayed, and that they now press heavily on the Government, at a time at which the cost of labour and materials has become very greatly augmented, thus giving to an unusual accumulation of important and necessary Public Works an appearance of profuse extravagance in the Government which would not have been attributed to it had those works been effected by degrees, and at the periods of time at which they were first demanded.

Public Works.—Roads and Bridges.

10. *Works.*—The progress of the Public Works, which have been begun, continued, or completed during the past year, has been as much advanced as could be expected, considering the scarcity of tradesmen and of skilled and manual labour of all sorts; but that deficiency has greatly retarded the

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completion of many works, and prevented the commencement of others; while the high price of labour and materials, and the uncertainty of contracts, have operated very detrimentally on the public undertakings.

11. The most important works which have been carried on during the year 1857 have been those in connexion with the quarantine establishments at Cannoniers' Point and Flat Island.

12. At Cannoniers' Point an extensive lazaret is almost complete. It comprises accommodation for about 600 immigrants, or two ships loads, as well as good hospitals, quarters for the staff, and other accessories. There are also quarters for Europeans in quarantine, and barracks outside for a military guard. This station is intended for small pox, or diseases other than cholera, and will, when complete, form a very efficient lazaret.

13. The cholera lazaret at Flat Island presented difficulties of landing which caused doubts as to the expediency of making it the permanent station; but no other having been available, it was decided that immediate steps should be taken to provide temporary accommodation for quarantine purposes, as well as a landing place, leaving experience to decide whether the expense of permanent buildings on the Island would be justified.

14. Temporary buildings were accordingly erected, and there has been constructed a landing jetty, which stretches out some distance into the sea, so as to be beyond the line of breakers (in all moderate weather). The footway is suspended from chain cables, which are supported by timber piers, offering very little surface to the wash of the sea. The work was much impeded by bad weather and other obstacles, but has now been brought to a close. It facilitates very much the disembarkation of men or stores. The temporary buildings are about to be replaced by the permanent ones, the estimate for which was voted by the Council in 1856.

15. The next work of importance is the construction of a wharf wall round the Iron Fanfaron, to prevent this valuable inner harbour from being encroached upon by the intentional or accidental deposit of mud or refuse matter on the shore.

16. The whole of the land which borders on this harbour is the property of the Crown. The greater part of it has been leased in lots of various sizes, one of the conditions of the leases having been, that the tenants should construct a substantial stone wall along the sea front of each lot. The work now in question is the completion by the Government of a similar wall in front of those portions of land which it is not the intention to lease. When this work shall have been finished all round the harbour, it is proposed to deepen the Iron Fanfaron, by means of dredging, to from 12 to 18 feet of water.

17. Considerable works have been in progress at the Lunatic Asylum at Grand River, with a view to rendering this institution more complete and efficient. And other suggested improvements will have the effect of making it far more so in many important respects.

18. A new prison establishment for the Savanne district has been in progress at Souillac. Nothing of the kind has existed there hitherto; and the prisoners are now partly lodged in a hired building.

19. At Flacq, a police establishment, with officers' quarters, has been completed.

20. This, with the new prisons at Souillac, are steps towards the general improvement of the public establishments in the districts, which are all far from being complete.

21. Under the head of Schools, the building a new school and master's residence has been commenced at the Champ de Lort; also a new schoolhouse, upon land recently purchased, for the purpose, at Terre Rouge.

22. A large building in Pucelles Street, Port Louis, has been purchased, and filled for a school. Each year something is done in this way, with the intention, not only of adding to the school accommodation, but of reducing the number of hired buildings now made use of for the purpose.

23. The old magazine for merchant's powder having been situated on ground much required for public improvements, and the position of the magazine so near the centre of the town having been considered dangerous, it was decided to build a new magazine at Fort George. The work was undertaken by the Royal Engineer Department, it having been found expedient that the magazine should be so constructed as to form an integral part of the defensive works now in course of construction at Fort George.

24. Harbour lights to point out the anchorage have been erected at Fort George and at Grand River, and are found exceedingly useful.

25. Semaphores, with the necessary buildings, have been established, to continue the line of telegraph to the lazaret at Flat Island.

26. *Bridges.*—Of bridges the most important has been that over River La Chaux at Mahébourg.

27. This bridge is on piles. It is upwards of 650 feet in leugth, and forms the principal outlet to a large tract of country north of Mahébourg. It is an improvement of immense value to that part of the Island.

28. The formation of the approaches to the bridge over the Tamarin River, a work of considerable labour, has been completed.

29. *Roads.*—During the year 1857 an aggregate length of 22¼ miles of new road has been formed; 36 miles of road have been re-metalled and widened or otherwise improved, and 132 miles have been kept in repair. This work was done chiefly by hired labourers, the average number employed having been 584. In a few instances, where it was practicable, contracts were taken for the formation of new roads.

30. Considerable expense has been incurred in pulling down and rebuilding new structures, which have been injured by unforeseen causes, and in remedying defects which have resulted from too much

economy in the plans and estimates. Among others, two bridges, from which great public advantage was expected, one at Plaines Wilhems and one at Moka, have given way, partly, as it is said, in consequence of injury to the foundation, as well as of the well-meant but undue parsimony which prompted the adoption of inferior plans of building, and partly in consequence of the indifferent material supplied by the contractors in England, and which remained undiscovered until the bridge was completed and tried.

31. In other cases, likewise, where contracts have been based upon estimates intended to economize Public Works, the very opposite effect has unfortunately resulted, and additions which have been found indispensable have been made at advanced stages of the work at greater expense than would have been incurred had a more liberal expenditure and estimate been sanctioned in the first instance; and works now under progress, under estimates of previous years, are in some cases found to be inadequate to the wants which they were designed to supply, and must during the present year be extended at greater expense, to supply the original deficiency.

32. No doubt, the greatest difficulty is experienced in this department in the preparation and realization of estimates, in consequence of the fluctuating and ever-varying prices of labour and materials, and the difficulty of keeping skilled labourers steady to their engagements; besides which, contractors appear to be very little influenced in their tenders for Public Works by any clear principle which should regulate the value of their services. An incredibly broad margin must, therefore, always be left for casualties such as these in all engagements for Public Works, and the practice of that public economy which is prompted in all Colonial Works is rendered exceedingly difficult in such circumstances.

33. Notwithstanding all that has been recently accomplished in the Department of Public Works, much is still to be done, great part of which should have been embraced in the service of former years, and the cost of which must now be sustained by past accumulated balances, augmented as it will be by the increased price of materials and labour.

34. The business of the several Public Departments has within the last ten or twelve years so increased as to have rendered it necessary to improve their accommodation, and in some instances to build new offices for those public servants for whom hired houses have hitherto been used, but who, in consequence of the largely augmented rents demanded, or of notices received to quit, in order to make room for other tenants, will be obliged to leave the premises which they now occupy.

35. The Post Office especially is an institution which produces much public anxiety in this respect, for in consequence of the enormous increase in postal correspondence within the last few years, not only are the clerks of that establishment fewer than ought to be there employed, but the building in which this public service is conducted is wholly unfit for its use in its increased importance. A new building, therefore, and a costly one it will be, must of necessity be erected, the only difficulty, in the present scarcity and high value of sites, having been to determine where it should be built; but this point has lately been settled.

36. Under recent recommendations from the Admiralty, a great and expensive undertaking for the improvement of the harbour will likewise soon be brought under consideration, which, with the improvement already described, will produce much additional harbour accommodation and protection.

37. But another maritime town and harbour would be of great value, not only for the purposes of trade and shipping, but for the relief of this town of part of its redundant population; and I hope that Mahébourg may soon become an object of improvement for all these objects.

38. And as great perplexity exists in most of the districts with regard to public accommodation for courts, prisons, asylums, police, schools, and other necessary institutions, which are at present very inconveniently scattered, and of a very inferior description, it cannot be long before Public Works must be undertaken for the purpose of centralizing in district towns all these necessary establishments.

Legislation.

39. The legislation of the year 1857 was unusually active and important. It embraced schemes for compulsory education throughout the Island; for facilitating the engagement of Indian immigrants; for introduction of labourers from places beyond the territory of the East India Company; a revision of the laws concerning quarantine; and the curatorship of vacant estates; with other Ordinances of minor but still considerable importance.

40. I proceed to notice briefly the leading Ordinances of the year.

41. (I.) Ordinance, No. 21, for making compulsory the education of children in the Colony.

42. The measures heretofore taken for educating youth in Mauritius had made comparatively little progress, owing partly to the apathy of both Creoles and Indians on the subject, but chiefly to its being more profitable to send young persons to work than to school. It was accordingly resolved to try the effect of making education compulsory.

43. The education thus forced upon the community is purely secular. It includes morality, order, and cleanliness, reading, writing, and arithmetic, and such industrial training as the Governor may appoint. The girls will also be taught needlework and domestic economy.

44. Religious instructors of any denomination will be admitted during limited portions of the time for compulsory attendance, but no children are allowed to attend such religious instruction against the wish of their parents or guardians.

45. It is made an offence, punishable by fine and imprisonment, in any person to withhold from school or deprive from education children between certain ages; and provision is made for the inspection of districts and schools to be erected under the law, and for preventing its evasion.

46. The Ordinance contains little more than an outline of the scheme, the details of which have yet to be completed by Regulations, which the Governor has power to pass in Executive Council. Nor

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can the law come into operation until more schools have been erected, and inspectors have been appointed for the educational districts.

47. The success of the scheme will depend entirely upon the efficacy of those measures; but the practical operation and enforcement of this law will be attended with many difficulties.

48. (II.) Ordinance No. 22 is likely to produce considerable addition to the supply of labour from India. It enables any employer to engage newly arrived immigrants to whatever number he chooses, upon repaying to the Government the expense of introducing those in excess of the number to which he is entitled by Regulation.

49. (III.) Ordinance No. 23 was designed to supply still further a deficiency in the labour market, by authorizing the introduction of immigrants from territories not under the government of the East India Company.

50. Previously to the passing of this law, the introduction of such immigrants had been rather discouraged, as effectual means did not exist for protecting them on their arrival in the colony, while employers were deterred from introducing them on account of the inability to engage them for more than one year.

51. By the new law three years' engagements are legalized, wherever the immigrant has been introduced in conformity with its Regulations, which embrace the following topics:—

1. Licence from the Governor or a Government Agent to introduce from a particular place.
2. Security against any immigrant being shipped against his will.
3. Proper treatment on board ship.
4. The surveillance of the Protector of Immigrants, on the labourers being brought to Mauritius.
5. Freedom to engage with any person they choose, provided that the master shall have made arrangements for their passage money and other expenses.

52. In order to prevent sums from being charged as passage money which really included the purchase price of the labourer, provision is made for fixing by arbitration the expense of introduction.

55. The immigrants, after being landed and engaged, become subject to the same laws as Indian immigrants, regarding unlicensed absences from work, on the one hand, and the recovery of wages and prevention of cruel treatment, on the other; while provision is also made for registering the marriages and parentage of all those who are introduced under the law.

54. From this Ordinance, and the Regulations in course of being framed to carry it out, and which are to be approved by the Secretary of State before they are put in force, considerable benefit is anticipated in the labour market; and it is expected that the Government will authorize several new sources to be opened for the introduction of labour under a scheme which provides for them the same freedom of choice and security against ill treatment, with the same social advantages, as the Indian Government has anxiously secured for Indian immigrants.

55. (IV.) Ordinance No. 26. The immigration from India having been placed under Regulations, in which the Colonial Government and the East India Company concurred, it was deemed proper to prevent private persons from introducing immigrants from territories under the government of the Company upon private speculation beyond the Government control, as experience had shown that the promoters of all such private schemes sacrificed the interest of the Indians to their own pecuniary advantage.

56. Repeated instances of cruelty and injustice to immigrants so introduced had pressed themselves on the attention of both the Home and Colonial Governments, while the East India Company were still more anxious to put a stop to them.

57. Under the law, severe penalties are enacted in every case where such immigrants are introduced in any way except under the system agreed to by the Indian and Colonial Governments.

58. The law appears to have attained its object, as no case has yet occurred to put in force its penal enactments.

59. (V.) Ordinance No. 3, to amend the laws concerning quarantine.

60. The repeated evasions of the quarantine laws, and their inadequacy to secure their object, induced the late Governor to submit them to revision by a committee consisting of the Procureur General, the Chief Medical Officer, the Harbour Master, and the Pratique Surgeon. The Ordinance No. 3, of 1857, resulted from their joint labours.

61. Its provisions are more especially applicable to the present quarantine stations of Flat Island and Cannonier's Point, and to temporary or provisional quarantine at the roadstead of Port Louis. In anticipation, however, of additional stations being afterwards required, it empowers the Governor in Executive Council to appoint these, and to extend to them the whole Ordinance or any part of it.

62. The Ordinance provides severe penalties against communicating with vessels before pratique, and against communicating with or approaching the quarantine stations and vessels under quarantine; it also enacts that persons attempting to escape from quarantine may be fired upon, and shall be liable to fine and imprisonment.

63. Precise rules are provided as to communication by pilots and health officers with vessels; as to signals and guard boats; and as to the place, manner, and period of quarantine in each case of infectious disease.

64. Power is, moreover, conferred upon the Governor in Executive Council to frame Regulations for carrying out the purpose of the law, and to provide limited penalties for their infraction.

65. Shortly after this law was passed, it was found not to have anticipated two difficulties; namely, the inability of the local courts of Mauritius to punish communication with vessels beyond the local jurisdiction; and, secondly, the inability to prosecute with sufficient promptitude offences, which, from the amount of penalty attached to them, could only be tried by the Court of Assize.

66. In these circumstances the Council passed the Ordinance No. 27, of 1857.

67. By this law penalties are imposed on any person who, before any vessel coming to Mauritius shall have received a pratique, shall land upon any part of the Colony, or enter any river or creek, after

having approached or communicated with such vessel, there being no distinction as to whether such communication shall have occurred at a part of the sea within or beyond the jurisdiction of the Colony.

68. This Ordinance also enables the Public Prosecutor, by restricting the penalty for any contravention of the Quarantine Law, to bring the case before the District Magistrate, instead of leaving it to be tried at the Quarterly Assizes; and it confers on the Magistrate of Port Louis jurisdiction in quarantine cases concurrently with the Magistrate of the district in which the contravention took place. By this means persons contravening will not escape on account of doubt as to the jurisdiction within which they come.

69. Since these laws were passed they have been repeatedly put in force with success to punish contraventions. It remains to be seen whether they will attain the more important object of preventing them.

70. The penalties are, I think, too heavy in many cases, and as they have given rise to several special applications for relief, I propose soon to suggest amendments in this respect.

71. Several breaches of the law have arisen from the scarcity of labour in the Colony, since, upon a vessel arriving with immigrants, the agents of the planters run the risk of detection and punishment for a breach of Quarantine Laws rather than lose the advantage of the first word with the Coolies. It has even once occurred that when immigrants were in quarantine an emissary has been sent to communicate with them, to be seized and placed in quarantine, that he might do so more effectually. The emissary was imprisoned for the offence, but there was not sufficient legal proof to convict the real offender.

72. Although some of the penalties are no doubt too severe, such contraventions as these rather deserve a corresponding increase in the severity of the punishment imposed; but the increased supply of labourers will furnish less temptation to brave the consequences of communicating unlawfully with vessels bringing immigrants.

73. (VI.) Ordinance No. 13, for amending the law on the Curatorship of Vacant Estates.

74. The costliness and inefficiency of the administration of intestate estates, under the Ordinance No. 9, of 1838, had been the subject of repeated correspondence between the Secretary of State and the late Governor. The Curator of these estates then acted as the head of his own department, employing, whenever he thought fit, an attorney, counsel, and notary of his own selection, and acting almost entirely without check or control as to the mode of his administration. The funds of the estates in his hands, while bearing costs and commissions, were entirely unremunerative, as they lay in the Treasury without bearing interest.

75. To remedy these evils, the new law places the Curator under the immediate personal superintendence and direction of the Colonial Treasurer, while in matters of law the office is under the guidance of the Procureur General. This kind of supervision was adopted on account of the interest which the Crown, as "ultimus hæres," has in unclaimed estates, and from its being the least objectionable surveillance that could be obtained.

76. In order that the estates may be no longer unproductive, the Ordinance places them on the same footing as deposits in the Savings' Bank, the Treasury lending the funds on security, and allowing five per cent. upon them.

77. The difference between that amount and the interest received will, it is expected, defray the cost of administration.

78. The Ordinance also simplifies and cheapens the proceedings for putting the Curator in possession, and for realizing the estates administered.

79. The law has not yet, however, been put into operation, as there have been some unforeseen difficulties still to be overcome.

80. Besides the laws thus mentioned in detail, there are some of minor importance, which deserve to be shortly noticed.

81. (VII.) Ordinance No. 2 introduces modified punishments in lieu of the long imprisonments which had been substituted for transportatton, and it allows the Court of Assizes to relax the severity of punishment, by imprisonment where the penal code prescribes their minimum.

82. (VIII.) Ordinance No. 9, "for amending the law as to the preparation of the Jury lists," enables persons who do not sufficiently understand the English language to have their names struck out of the Jury list by the officer by whom it shall be prepared, without the inconvenience and delay of having to appear and be examined as to their inability to serve.

83. (IX.) Ordinance No. 11 reduces from ten to six per cent. the Customs Duties upon certain manufactured articles of constant consumption in the Colony. It had been loudly called for by the public.

84. (X.) Ordinance No. 12 was proposed to the Council in consequence of suggestions from the Secretary of State. It provides that costs shall be given in civil causes by and against the Crown in the same manner as in causes between subject and subject. It re-introduced the just rule of the Civil Code, from which there had been repeated but not well-defined deviations by the Court. Its provisions are similar to those of 18 & 19 Victoria, Chapter 90, which, however, relates only to cases instituted against the Crown.

85. (XI.) Ordinance No. 18 was passed to remedy the inconvenience which had repeatedly arisen from the temporary suspension of business upon the death, illness, or absence of Magistrates in rural districts.

86. In those districts in which there are separate District and Stipendiary Magistrates, the Ordinance clothes the one with the functions of the other until his return or recovery, or until a successor be appointed to him.

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87. It also enables District Clerks, in cases of urgency, to grant warrants for arrest and search. By this means the officers of justice will not be baffled in the detection of crime, owing to the temporary absence of the District Magistrate.

88. (XII.) Ordinance No. 20, "to make provision for regulating the temporalities belonging to the United Church of England and Ireland."

89. Her Majesty's confirmation having been withheld from Ordinance No. 22, of 1856, which had been passed for the same purpose, the Ordinance No. 20 was proposed in place of it, under directions of the Secretary of State.

90. It provides that land set apart for building churches and churchyards attached to the Church of England should be vested in the Bishop of Mauritius for the time being and his successors; or, if the church shall have been erected at the sole expense of private persons, it may be vested either in that manner or in trustees named by the founders.

91. The Ordinance provides that those trustees be members of the Church of England, and regulates the mode in which they shall be appointed and removed. It also determines their mode of meeting and voting; and it contains detailed rules as to burying ground, pew rents, and other ecclesiastical matters.

Civil Establishment.

92. Notwithstanding the improvements which appear to have been made in recent years in the Civil Establishments of the colony, a great deal still remains to be done before they can attain anything like perfection.

93. The public service has so greatly increased in all departments, that it has been difficult to keep pace with the wants of the Colony; and I found on my arrival here, not only that the public buildings were far too small for the functionaries they were intended to contain, but that the public duties of those functionaries were far heavier than they could conveniently accomplish.

94. Moreover, the economy of past years,—very properly commencing at a time when financial difficulties had overtaken the country, but continuing without the same reason, although with other well intended objects, when prosperity shone upon the colonists,—had introduced a practice of adding to the duties of certain public officers other duties which were wholly foreign to their primary employments; the consequence of which was, that whenever fault was found for any apparent or real neglect of public duty, or for the imperfection of its performance, the reason always promptly given was, that the pressure of these heterogeneous occupations interfered with each other, and prevented the perfect performance of them all; and this, upon inquiry, proved in many instances to be the fact.

95. The satisfactory position, therefore, in which they may have been described to be last year, was necessarily comparative with reference to their condition in previous years, and no doubt many improvements had been made, which, judging from the records of the past, must have placed these public institutions in a position of comparative advancement.

96. But most of them are still very imperfect; and the representations which I have lately had occasion to make on the subject, not only of the public buildings in which the offices are conducted, but with reference also to the number of clerks and the augmentations of their salaries, will, I hope, produce many improvements in the Civil Establishment.

97. As far, also, as I have hitherto been able to judge of many of our public offices, there are several of them which require remodelling in their system; but although many amendments have lately been effected in this respect, it will be necessary to become more familiar with past and present arrangements before improvements to any great extent can be suggested for the future.

98. The accomplishment, too, of this desideratum, so much depends upon the energy and experience of the heads of departments, and upon their own well-concerted arrangements, that great hesitation must be shown in the suggestion of decided changes the success of which must wholly depend on the power and skill of those who have the immediate duty of carrying them into execution.

99. This, however, is very certain, that in an important and wealthy Crown Colony like Mauritius, where there are, so to speak, no popular institutions, and where the whole establishment of the country rests with the Government alone, the machinery of all the Public Departments should be as complete as they can be, the staff of each should be fully equal to its duties, and the head of each department, particularly of each superior one, should be thoroughly master of his work. I am not prepared to say that all these desiderata are nearly yet attained, or are even capable of full attainment, in this Colony.

Population.

100. The Census of 1851 divided the population under three heads:—the Indian, the ex-apprentice, and the general.

The aggregate was then stated at 189,327. It may now be estimated at nearly 240,000.

101. The Indian was enumerated at 86,404. It amounted to 142,534 at the end of 1857.

102. The Ex-apprentice with their families was stated at 48,366. It is now supposed to be little more than 40,600.

103. And the general population was estimated at 54,557*l*. It is now supposed to be nearly 55,800.

104. Owing to the length of time which has elapsed since the last Census was taken, it has not been found possible to collect information relative to the proportion which the different classes of our population bear to each other, the relative numbers of the sexes, and the comparative ratio in which

the inhabitants of the different districts have increased in number, with that accuracy which can alone render information upon this, and many other points of interest connected with the subject of population, of any real practical importance.

105. The only subject which the statistics at present available can serve to elucidate, is the proportion which the Indian population, from which our agricultural labourers are almost exclusively drawn, bears to the general mass.

106. The information which the statistical tables present upon this point would at first sight lead to the conclusion that the supply of labour, if not sufficient to meet the demands of the planters, is at any rate more in proportion to the demand than it was in 1851.

107. The number of the Indian population has each year steadily increased, while that of the general population has on the whole diminished, in consequence of the ravages twice made by epidemic disease, which the general excess of births over deaths has not sufficed to counterbalance.

108. The result is that the proportion which the Indian population bears to the whole population has increased in the interval from 43·1 to 59·7 per cent.

109. It appears, however, from returns which the planters have been called upon to produce, that whereas out of the 64,282 male Indians in the Island in 1851, 41,921, or 65·2 per cent., were employed on sugar estates, out of the 107,072 male Indians in the Island at the end of 1857, only 46,997, or 43·8 per cent., were so employed.

110. The number of male labourers, other than Indians, occupied on the plantations, is computed at 1,820. Whereas, therefore, the total number of male labourers employed on the sugar estates in 1851 amounted to 35·1 per cent. of the whole population, at the end of 1857 it amounted only to 20·4 per cent. In 1851 it was 44,611; in 1857, 48,817.

111. The number of the female in proportion to the male Indian population was less, however, in 1851 than in 1857, the proportion of females being in the former year 17·5, and in the latter 24·8 of the whole Indian population.

112. As a general rule, women do no work on the plantations.

113. The area of land under cane cultivation has in the meantime about doubled. In the Blue Book for 1851 it was calculated at 39,300 acres; by the statistical returns of this year it is computed, according to the lowest calculation, at 75,000 acres; according to another, at more than 80,000; while the uncultivated land susceptible of cultivation is calculated at 126,346 acres.

114. These results fully account for the large sums which are paid by the planters for engaging the services of arriving immigrants. Such sums are not the measure of the planter's wealth, but of his necessities. The question with him is, whether he is to abandon the crop upon which his capital has been spent, or pay a price for labour which will leave him little, if any, profit upon that crop. It is the middleman alone who benefits by the competition. The planter runs the risk of ruin. The labourer's wages are but slightly affected.

115. The inference that a larger supply of field labour is required cannot be questioned; and, making full allowance for the large demand which commerce makes upon the labour market, it would appear that a large number of the Indian population are not serving the purpose for which they were introduced.

116. Whether it is desirable that they should be allowed to remain in the colony without re-engagement, after completion of their industrial residence, when the chief objection to introducing a supply of field labour equal to the demand is a fear of scarcity in provisions, the most necessary of which are derived exclusively from other countries, would appear to depend mainly upon what their usual occupations are, and what may be the demand for the peculiar kind of labour in which they are engaged. But these are facts which, so far as concerns the present population, can only be ascertained when a new Census is taken, and by analogy only with the occupations of the present population can those of the future be conjectured.

Ecclesiastical.

117. No changes worthy of any notice have taken place in the establishment of last year, as contrasted with that of 1856.

118. The numbers of clergy and of priests are much the same as they were in 1856; augmentations of the numbers of Roman Catholic priests were sanctioned, although the full numbers were not obtained during the past year.

119. The zeal of both the churches and their ministers appears to be unabated.

Education.

120. The returns from the Acting Rector of the Royal College, and the Superintendent of Government Schools, will disclose the state of public education in the Colony during the past year.

121. The Ordinance which was passed in 1857, founded on the recommendation of the Committee of Education, and the improvements contemplated by both, were not brought into operation, under the advice of the Committee, that they should be for a time suspended, nor, indeed, in consequence of the absence of the Rector, and of the necessity for instituting some important changes which required great caution and consideration, was the Royal College in a position to be improved during any portion of last year.

122. The condition, therefore, of the Royal College at the close of 1857 must have been much the same as it was at the close of 1856; but it is expected that after the arrival of the newly appointed Rector, and the adoption of the contemplated improvements which he will be the means of carrying out,

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the educational position and discipline of that institution will derive all the advantages which have been needed for some time past.

123. The Superintendent of the Government Schools reports that about 2,761 children received education last year in the Government schools of Port Louis and the rural districts. The aggregates are nearly the same as in the preceding year; but in the town schools there is a decrease in the attendance of 105, while in the country schools there was an increase of 97. The greatest decrease was in the Creole schools, the diminution having been 61; and next to them the Indian schools fell off, by a diminished number of 26. The reasons are conjectured by the Superintendent, but it is difficult to attribute them to their true causes.

124. Great difficulties are still experienced in the prosecution of the educational scheme in this Colony, and it is to be feared that those difficulties will not easily be surmounted, as long as the principal causes exist.

125. One chief cause is in the *dialect* spoken by the children, which is the most corrupt description of Creole French, in which dialect alone their ordinary conversation is conducted, and beyond which they are for the most part ignorant of any means of oral communication.

126. This renders it necessary in many of the schools to impart instruction in French, which is the parent of their own dialect, for to the English language the greater number of these children are entire strangers.

127. Some few of the schools, however, are exceptions, for in them English as well as French is used as the medium of instruction. But when the language in which they are taught is not that which they are accustomed to hear spoken or read beyond the walls of their school, it is hopeless to make much impression of a durable character, either on the subject or the medium of instruction, and the greater part of the advantages of education is therefore lost.

128. Another difficulty is found in the difference of *creed*, which gives rise to jealousy and misapprehension, lest any particle of an adverse creed should be imparted in any of the Government schools; so that it is even difficult to introduce the most elementary or the most universal moral precepts, without incurring the danger of unexpected opposition from those who entertain lurking suspicions upon these points.

129. A third impediment is found in the incompetency of *teachers*, few of whom can be expected to possess much skill in their vocation for the very inadequate remuneration they receive; and, indeed, when in this country any one who possesses the least talent and industry can bring his talents to a profitable market in any other sphere of occupation, it rather proves the possession of a very unmarketable mediocrity of talent when teachers are found to remain permanently employed in a distasteful and underpaid service.

130. The buildings, too, in which these Government schools are conducted, are of a very inferior description, and some of them so confined and ill-ventilated as not only to possess no attraction by way of accommodation or comfort, but to make the work of instruction, both for the teacher and the pupil, most injurious to health.

131. One great mistake, I think, arises from waste of educational machinery, and the consequent loss of efficiency, arising from a plurality of inferior schools throughout the town and the districts, instead of concentrating it in the town in two large schools, and in one or two only in each district.

132. If all those inferior schools were united into two, of a large and important character, placed in convenient parts of the town, with an infant and Indian school attached to each, it would not be difficult to procure from the best training establishments superior masters and teachers for those large schools, who, with the assistance of two or three of the best of the present teachers, and by the institution of a system of pupil-teaching, would soon raise the education in those schools to one of a superior character, and, by means of the system there established, and the aid of the pupil-teachers (when sufficiently advanced for that purpose), the same improved plan of education might soon be spread throughout the district, and a clear and uniform scheme be generally adopted, instead of the present varied methods which are found to prevail in all the different schools, and which present no intelligible system whatever.

133. It is true that the town of Port Louis covers a large surface, and the children would have a greater distance to walk to the two central schools than they have at present to the inferior schools in their more immediate neighbourhood; but if the education they received were better, and the industrial pursuits they were taught were rendered more attractive, the additional distance would scarcely be regarded.

134. It is true that this plan would involve the expense of building these larger schools, but in reduction of that expense there would be the price produced by the sales of the existing schools, as well as the saving in rent of those which are now tenanted by Government.

135. In the country districts there is the same waste of power, and the difficulty of centralisation is greater; but it is now becoming an object of importance to centralise in district towns the principal portion of the population not employed in agriculture upon the estates. It may, therefore, soon become practicable to establish these improved model schools even in the district villages.

136. And as there would then remain the difficulty of dealing with the rural population on the estates, it may become a question whether it will not be expedient for Government to give up the system of State tuition there, and leave that to be undertaken by private individuals, holding out only the prospect of Government assistance where schools are established in any of those scattered populations in which any phase of the Christian Religion may be taught; and all that would be necessary, in such cases, would be, that the half-yearly or periodical visit and report from the Superintendent or other Government officer should determine the merit of the school, and the amount of assistance to be bestowed.

137. The combination of many of the small salaries now given to inferior teachers would furnish more liberal ones for teachers and industrial masters in these larger Government schools, while the

inferior ones, as well as all others deserving a favourable report, might be made more dependant on private enterprise, sustained to some extent by Government contributions, and subject to occasional but not exclusive Government superintendence.

Imports and Exports.

138. The Imports of 1857, as compared with those of 1856, show a large increase.

139. The Total Value of Imports in 1856 was 2,154,406*l.*, while that of 1857 was 2,391,106*l.*; and, after deducting the value of specie in those two years, the remaining value of goods imported in 1856 was 1,427,446*l.*, while that of 1857 was 1,765,200*l.*, leaving an increase in favour of the latter year of 337,754*l.*

140. The Exports of 1857, as compared with those of 1856, likewise show a large increase in Value.

141. The Total Value of Exports in 1856 was 1,804,123*l.*, while that of 1857 was 2,303,786*l.*, and after deducting the value of specie the total value of goods exported in the two years was 1,796,523*l.* in 1856, and 2,176,824*l.* in 1857, giving an increase in favour of the latter year of 380,300*l.*

142. The principal cause of this difference is, that in 1857 the *value* of the sugar exported was 350,856*l.*, although the *quantity* exported in that year was less than that of 1856 by upwards of 3,000,000 lbs.

143. The following Summary, furnished by the Collector of the Customs, will give these particulars more in detail.

A.

The Imports in 1857, as compared with those of 1856, show a large increase.

	1856.			1857.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Total Value of Imports - -	2,154,406	9	4	2,391,106	7	10
Deduct Value of Specie - -	726,960	6	8	625,906	3	4
Total Value of Goods imported -	1,427,446	2	8	1,765,200	4	6
Increase - - - -				337,754	1	10

which chiefly arises from increased Importations of the under-mentioned articles:—

	Value in 1856.	Value in 1857.	Increase.
	£	£	£
Animals, viz.: Cows and Oxen - -	37,266	42,819	5,553
„ Horses - - -	10,139	18,210	8,071
„ Mules - - -	39,553	43,040	3,487
Apparel - - - - -	11,191	19,583	8,392
Beer and Ale of all Sorts - - -	14,639	25,594	10,955
Cabinet and Upholstery Wares - -	3,403	7,233	3,830
Carriages - - - - -	5,981	10,345	4,364
Coals - - - - -	6,472	15,216	8,744
Coffee - - - - -	7,477	15,773	8,296
Copper Sheets and Nails - - -	50,526	63,089	12,563
Corn, &c.: Grain - - - -	67,384	79,656	12,272
„ Wheat - - - -	47,204	65,913	18,709
„ Flour - - - -	9,923	13,316	3,393
Cotton Manufactures, Plain - -	47,534	77,199	29,665
„ Coloured - -	60,537	101,348	40,811
„ Hosiery - -	2,947	7,292	4,345
Earthen and China Ware - - -	2,574	6,861	4,287
Fish, Dried or Salted - - -	20,556	24,693	4,137
Haberdashery - - - -	31,393	44,284	12,891
Hardwares and Cutlery - - -	21,784	38,920	17,136
Iron, Bar - - - - -	8,269	12,255	3,986
„ Cast - - - - -	3,153	12,923	9,770
Iron Wrought Nails - - - -	4,609	7,699	3,090
Jewellery - - - - -	2,677	12,508	9,831
Leather Boots and Shoes - - -	14,955	27,881	12,926
Machinery - - - -	34,976	76,080	41,104
Painters' and Dyers' Colours - - -	7,398	13,197	5,799
Soap - - - - -	12,871	17,915	5,044
Spirits: Brandy - - - -	5,377	15,552	10,175
Wine - - - - -	65,537	72,180	6,643

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B.

The Exports in 1857, as compared with those of 1856, show a large increase in Value.

	1856. £	s.	d.	1857. £	s.	d.
Total Value of Exports	1,804,123	2	0	2,303,786	9	0
Deduct Value of Specie	7,600	0	0	126,962	0	0
Total Value of Goods exported	1,796,523	2	0	2,176,824	9	0
Increase				380,301	7	0

the principal cause of which is explained as follows:—

	Lbs.	Value £		
Sugar exported in 1857	231,987,012	2,038,682	9	3
Sugar exported in 1856	235,605,245	1,687,826	3	6
Difference		350,856	5	9

notwithstanding that the quantity of Sugar exported in 1857 was 3,618,233 lbs. less than the quantity exported in 1856.

Shipping.

144. The Vessels entered inwards in 1857 were 728, with a tonnage of 271,994, being an increase over those of the previous year of 50 Vessels, containing 31,154 tons.

145. The Vessels cleared outwards in 1857 were 705, containing 261,356 tons, being an increase of 63 Vessels of 29,014 tons over those of 1856.

146. Of these vessels about two thirds are British, nearly one third French, and the rest of various other nations.

147. The following summary, furnished by the Collector of Customs, will give these particulars more in detail.

148. And the very elaborate Statistical Tables appended to the "Returns" will furnish all the minute information which the recent instructions require.

A.

VESSELS ENTERED INWARDS.

	With Cargoes.		In Ballast.		Total.	
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.
1857	648	241,641	80	30,353	728	271,994
1856	602	214,794	76	26,046	678	240,840
Increase in 1857	46	26,847	4	4,307	50	31,154

The following STATEMENT shows the principal COUNTRIES from which an INCREASED OR DECREASED AMOUNT OF TONNAGE arrived in 1857, as compared with the TONNAGE of Vessels entered Inwards in 1856.

Countries whence arrived.	Vessels with Cargoes.				Vessels in Ballast.				Total.			
	1856.	1857.	Increase.	Decrease.	1856.	1857.	Increase.	Decrease.	1856.	1857.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
United Kingdom	22,993	39,841	16,848	—	—	476	476	—	22,993	40,317	17,324	—
Australasia	14,138	14,240	102	—	2,184	2,077	—	107	16,322	16,317	—	5
Cape of Good Hope	10,004	16,641	6,637	—	—	3,585	3,585	—	10,004	20,226	10,222	—
British Continental India	89,269	90,483	1,214	—	3,663	6,031	2,368	—	92,932	96,514	3,582	—
Other British Possessions	8,289	5,733	—	2,556	4,212	2,261	—	1,951	12,501	7,994	—	4,507
France	22,028	28,200	6,172	—	1,700	1,918	218	—	23,728	30,118	6,390	—
Madagascar	13,311	15,467	2,156	—	19	—	—	19	13,330	15,467	2,137	—
Reunion Island	6,078	7,316	1,238	—	4,545	5,256	711	—	10,623	12,572	1,949	—
States of the Rio de la Plata	10,793	4,978	—	5,815	2,647	3,621	974	—	13,440	8,599	—	4,841
Other Foreign Countries	17,891	18,742	851	—	7,076	5,128	—	1,948	24,967	23,870	—	1,097
Total	214,794	241,641	35,218	8,371	26,046	30,353	8,332	4,025	240,840	271,994	41,604	10,450
Deduct Decrease	- -	- -	8,371	- -	- -	- -	4,025	- -	- -	- -	10,450	—
Net Increase	- -	- -	26,847	- -	- -	- -	4,307	- -	- -	- -	31,154	—

B.

VESSELS CLEARED OUTWARDS.

	With Cargoes.		In Ballast.		Total.	
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.
1857 - -	557	199,005	148	62,351	705	261,356
1856 - -	501	175,623	141	56,689	642	232,342
Increase in 1857 -	56	23,352	7	5,662	63	29,014

The following Statement shows the principal Countries for which an Increased or Decreased Amount of Tonnage was cleared in 1857, as compared with the Tonnage of Vessels cleared Outwards in 1856.

Countries to which departed.	Vessels with Cargoes.				Vessels in Ballast.				Total.			
	1856.	1857.	Increase.	Decrease.	1856.	1857.	Increase.	Decrease.	1856.	1857.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
United Kingdom -	57,865	61,304	3,439	—	—	—	—	—	57,865	61,304	3,439	—
Australasia - -	17,123	18,255	1,132	—	—	—	—	—	17,123	18,255	1,132	—
Cape of Good Hope -	4,628	6,450	1,822	—	—	746	746	—	4,628	7,196	2,568	—
Ceylon - - -	1,628	7,672	6,044	—	3,627	7,014	3,387	—	5,255	14,686	9,431	—
British Continental India	31,723	30,988	—	735	42,295	39,012	—	3,283	74,018	70,000	—	4,018
Other British Possessions	770	5,310	4,540	—	673	889	216	—	1,443	6,199	4,756	—
France - - -	19,506	18,302	—	1,204	—	—	—	—	19,506	18,302	—	1,204
Madagascar - -	9,935	13,645	3,710	—	4,337	3,017	—	1,320	14,272	16,662	2,390	—
Reunion Island - -	12,596	22,193	9,597	—	1,302	5,890	4,588	—	13,898	28,083	14,185	—
Pondicherry - -	11,032	8,010	—	3,082	2,597	469	—	2,128	13,689	8,479	—	5,210
Other Foreign Countries	8,787	6,876	—	1,911	1,858	5,314	3,456	—	10,645	12,190	1,545	—
Total - -	175,653	199,005	30,284	6,932	56,689	62,351	12,393	6,731	232,342	261,356	39,446	10,432
Deduct Decrease -	- -	- -	6,932	- -	- -	- -	6,731	- -	- -	- -	10,432	—
Net Increase -	- -	- -	23,352	- -	- -	- -	5,662	- -	- -	- -	29,014	—

C.

Vessels Entered Inwards.

	1856.		1857.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
British Vessels - - - -	439	155,753	468	182,278
American - - -	3	2,160	9	4,960
Arab - - - - -	4	1,292	2	520
Belgian - - - - -	2	853	—	—
Chilian - - - - -	1	260	—	—
Danish - - - - -	—	—	2	954
Dutch - - - - -	6	3,319	2	1,473
French - - - - -	208	71,687	231	77,644
Hanseatic Towns - - -	8	3,586	3	852
Hawaiian - - - -	1	280	—	—
Jerusalem - - - - -	1	274	—	—
Lombock - - - -	—	—	2	211
Norwegian - - - -	—	—	1	327
Sardinian - - - -	2	620	1	341
Swedish - - - - -	3	756	7	2,434
Total - - -	678	240,840	728	271,994

D.

VESSELS CLEARED OUTWARDS.

	1857.		1856.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
British Vessels	416	151,362	452	175,158
American	4	3,455	8	4,502
Arab	4	1,292	1	260
Belgian	1	332	1	531
Chilian	1	260	—	—
Danish	—	—	2	954
Dutch	7	3,495	2	1,473
French	197	67,427	227	74,596
Hanseatic Towns	6	3,200	3	786
Hawaiian	1	203	—	—
Jerusalem	1	274	—	—
Lombok	—	—	1	131
Norwegian	—	—	1	328
Sardinian	2	620	1	340
Swedish	2	422	6	2,297
Total	642	232,342	705	261,356

Agriculture and Manufactures.

149. The interruption of Immigration in the latter part of 1856 and in the early part of 1857 appears to have occasioned serious embarrassments to the planters. Large plantations had been prepared in the previous year, and an abundant supply of guano had been plentifully applied; but the want of labour, from the cessation of Immigration, as well as from other sources of local difficulty, greatly retarded the progressive operations of the field.

150. In consequence of this, not only did weeds take possession of the soil, but many canes were left uncut; and although the manufacture of last year's crop was continued as late as February and even March in the present year, it is doubtful whether the Exports of the past year will be equal to that of the previous year, notwithstanding all the preparations for an augmented harvest.

151. The better opinion of the planters appears to be, that in consequence of the larger breadth of land under cultivation, and the interruptions that were experienced from the causes I have noticed, the general aspect of the Sugar Estates has not been so favourable during the past year as during the previous one. But nevertheless the recent augmentation of agricultural assistance, and the free application of manures, is rapidly restoring the farms, even in their extended state, to the perfection which the liberal expenditure of means justly entitled them to attain, and certainly the present appearance of most of them is exceedingly favourable to their prosperity.

152. The year 1857 was not marked by any particular improvement in the machinery of estates or the manufacture of sugars. Some few patents were taken out, but no great results are expected from them. Every endeavour is, however, used by the planters to bring into use the latest and best improvements in the manufacture of sugar, and some of the samples which are occasionally produced, more for the purpose of exhibiting the powers of the machinery than for the purposes of the market, prove the great perfection to which this branch of manufacture has been advanced.

153. And were it not for the discouragements which naturally result from the protection that is given to the refineries, the finest and whitest sugar that modern improvements are capable of producing would be displayed in the English markets.

154. For these causes, however, it is said to be less profitable to produce these superior sugars than to manufacture the darker and coarser varieties.

155. The general aspect on the whole of agriculture and manufactures in the island is as encouraging as can possibly be expected, under the temporary difficulties that have been noticed, and the expectations of the planters are as sanguine, subject only to their natural anxieties as to the future arrangements of immigration.

156. The estimated extent of last year's crop of sugar is said to have been about 230,000,000 lbs., and its supposed value not far from 3,000,000*l.* sterling, according to the average market prices of this Island.

Immigration.

157. There were imported last year from the three Presidencies of India 13,723 immigrants, of whom the proportion of females to males was about 40 per cent., being a far larger proportion than that regulated by Government for last year's importation.

158. During the same year 4,600 returned to India, 2,918 births took place and 4,878 deaths, leaving an aggregate Indian population of 107,072 males and 35,462 females, being a proportion of about 3 to 1, the increase during the year (including births, and deducting deaths and departures,) being 4,015.

159. Of these, but a limited number only were introduced under the Law of No. 12. of 1855, which sanctions private importations under certain stipulations, as it was found that the sixth clause encourages rival planters, through the agency of their sirdars, to disappoint the expectations of the importers, by tempting these imported immigrants to enter into other engagements than those which they were specially engaged to make, and thereby the good effects of the law have been completely neutralised.

160. It is hoped, however, that representations which have been forwarded upon this and other subjects relative to immigration will have the effect of removing this difficulty, which has been a severe obstacle to the operation of a law intended to be beneficial to the spirited and enterprising planter.

161. Although other channels of immigration to this Colony are open to the planters, and facilities have been given, as well as restrictions imposed, by a late law (23, of 1857), to the importation of labour from places not within the territory of India, yet the chances in favour of importation from other places than India are not very great; nor, indeed, now that the planters have been accustomed to the Indians, and the latter to the former, is there much desire evinced to resort to other places than India for the required supply of ordinary agricultural labour.

162. But as tradesmen, artificers, and other skilled workmen are in great demand, and not to be supplied from the ordinary ranks of imported "Coolies," it is probable that the new law will be resorted to for the importation of that class of servants, if they can be procured from other fields of migration.

163. Several places have been named as likely to furnish sources of desirable colonial labour, but the law is not yet in operation.

164. In this country the native habits of the Indians are sufficiently respected and preserved, the climate is favourable to them, and their gains are great,—greater, I believe, than they would be if they went three times the distance to more unknown and less inviting colonies; while the voyage is so short, and the terms of engagement so easy, that the Indian who desires to emigrate at all never hesitates in giving preference to this Island.

165. At the same time, the constant return of natives to India, with their favourable accounts of the abundance that prevails here, and with the evidence which their well-filled purses furnish, never fails to attract numbers to this Island, which they are always ready to visit, in the certainty that, after their short period of service, they can return to their own country with a sum that would there appear a little fortune, or stay here and amass what would soon be regarded as wealth.

166. No place to which the Indian immigrant can go is so favourable to him as is this Colony, and to no other would he so willingly expatriate himself either for a season or a permanency.

Grants of Land.

167. The only transactions of note during 1857 respecting Crown Lands which are likely to be attended with collateral public advantage were the granting of leases to Mr. Vigoureux and Mr. Villemain.

168. The former was granted a lease for 21 years of a piece of land bordering on the Fanfaron Harbour, for the purpose of a marine yard, subject to the payment of 300*l.* per annum, and the construction of a quay wall along the sea front. This land consists of several old jouissances purchased and reunited; and it is here that the lessee proposes to construct a dry dock of large dimensions, which will be of great value to the commercial interests and also to the vessels of Her Majesty's Navy.

169. Mr. Villemain was granted the lease for 10 years of a forest of about 650 acres in extent, near the Piton du Millieu, for an almost nominal rent of 32*l.* 10*s.* per annum, the chief object to himself being the preservation of the game, and the object to the Colony being the preservation of timber and the forest, both of which the lessee has undertaken strictly to guard.

170. The conservation of these important forests for all the purposes for which they are anxiously maintained is thereby ensured without difficulty or expense to the Government.

GAOLS, PRISONERS, AND CRIMES.

Prison of Port Louis.

171. The total committals in 1857 to the prison of Port Louis alone were 6,763, and in 1856, 6,710; showing an increase during 1857 of 53.

172. The committals to the same prison for vagrancy and desertion from services in 1857 were 4,546, and in 1856, 4,480; the increase being 66.

173. It thus appears that the committals for vagrancy and desertion in each of these two years are more than two thirds of the whole committals, and that those in 1857 exceeded those in 1856 by 66.

174. The cause of this excess is the increased vigilance and severity of the police in apprehending deserters, and especially the practice of apprehending all Indians found on Sundays in the thoroughfares who cannot show passes or papers; a practice which I greatly condemn, and am endeavouring by degrees to alter.

175. Since the year 1852 the punishments under this head have increased from 3,202 to 4,546.

176. On the other hand, there has been a slight diminution in committals for other offences, and convictions for the infraction of municipal regulations have likewise decreased.

177. The committals for ordinary theft have, however, increased from 643 in 1856 to 688 in 1857, being the largest number that has yet been attained.

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178. For slight assaults, also, there has been an increase from 180 to 230, while the committals for murder, manslaughter, poisoning, and infanticide in 1856 were 37, and in 1857, 40.

179. There has also been an increase in committals under the Merchant Shipping Act, from 211 in 1856 to 287 in 1857.

180. The daily average of prisoners in the Port Louis Gaol in 1856 was 490, and in 1857, 468, although the committals in the latter year were considerably more numerous; consequently, while there has been an increase in the number of prisoners, there has been a diminution in the gravity of their crimes, if that can be fairly tested by the terms of imprisonment. A comparison of the whole committals with the daily average number of prisoners during the last six years shows that this improvement has been progressive.

181. The prisoners have been employed as follows:

DAILY AVERAGE OF PRISONERS.

182.	At public works out of prison in Port Louis	66
	Employed by municipality out of prison	20
	Working in prison at productive labour	180
	Working in service of prison, and attending sick in hospital	45
	Sick	9
	Uuemployed; debtors, untried prisoners, and convalescents	47
	In the country districts at public works	101
	Total daily average	468

183. It thus appears that the average number of prisoners employed within the prison is 225, or less than half those imprisoned; and that of these, 45 are in service of the prison, and attending sick in hospital.

184. The latter number is excessive, and the prison arrangements in this respect are under investigation. It is also exceedingly questionable whether any prisoners should be employed as attendants at the hospital, which is at a distance from the prison, because not only can such duties not be regarded as penal labour, but the prisoners so employed are not under prison discipline or duress. I hope soon to alter this erroneous practice.

185. With regard to the prisoners engaged in out-door labour, averaging 189 daily, it is true that assistance has been given by this means to carrying out certain Public Works, *e. g.*—

The quarantine station at Flat Island, quarantine station at Cannoniers Point, bridge at Plaines Wilhems, bridge at Pailles, as well as the Lunatic Asylum at Grand River, and that without their aid much of the heavy work of those public undertakings would have been greatly retarded:

186. But when it is considered that for guarding prisoners so employed a large number of police have been withdrawn from their proper duties, it is more than doubtful whether any economy has been effected. This employment of police I am about to substitute by that of regular prison guards, so long as the practice continues of employing the prisoners on the public works. But in fact it was not so much a question of economy as a matter of necessity arising out of the great scarcity of labour.

187. On the other hand, the employment of out-door parties has interfered with prison discipline; and opportunities of escape, and of obtaining spirits and tobacco, or of meeting friends, (all of which are now most strictly prohibited,) have been among the evil consequences of the practice.

188. The Prison Committee, who have made strong representations to the Government against the practice, have expressed a hope that the introduction of an increased number of immigrants for road purposes and public works will enable the Government to dispense with a mode of employment which, however well conducted it may be, but slightly punishes, and in no way reclaims, the prisoner. I fear, however, that some time must elapse, for reasons which I have officially reported elsewhere, before the employment of prisoners on the Public Works of importance can be strictly dispensed with.

189. Offences against prison regulations have diminished, and those committed by Indians are much fewer, in proportion to the number of Indian prisoners, than those committed by Europeans or Creoles. The difference evidently arises from the much greater docility of the Indian character.

190. With regard to the instruction of prisoners, the system has continued as defective as in former years, owing, probably, to the difficulty of educating systematically so heterogeneous a population, embracing, as it does, Europeans of several nations, Creoles, and Indians, of every creed and language.

191. The only education hitherto given has been by clergymen and catechists, whose visits have been almost entirely limited to a few hours on Sunday. No secular education is yet given in the prison.

192. The Prison Committee are now directing their earnest attention to this subject, in the hope of being able soon to improve the system, by introducing regular secular education, as well as a much greater amount of moral and religious teaching for those who are under sufficiently long sentences to justify any expectation of improvement.

193. One great difficulty in the way of training, both secular and religious, is the classification of prisoners. The prison contains offenders of every kind, from the contravener of a trifling police regulation to the felon convicted of the greatest crimes. If the prisoners were all of one nation, classifying for education and discipline would be difficult in so varied a multitude, but the varieties of race and languages multiply the difficulties many fold. The prison, too, is very ill adapted for carrying out a systematic classification, as it has not been built on any general plan, but consists of a number of independent buildings and yards. It is, in fact, a mere place of confinement for prisoners and contains none of the improved arrangements for true penitentiary discipline.

194. A good system of penal discipline, or prison education, cannot therefore be expected in a prison, which neither in its buildings nor in its population is fitted for a penitentiary. All that can be hoped for is some slight improvement of the present defective practice in these important particulars. The Committee of the Prisons are now alive to the necessity of endeavouring to do the best they can for this end; and it is hoped that the report for next year will contain more satisfactory results.

195. The health of the prisoners has continued as good as in former years, only seven having died among the whole 6,763 committed during the year. The average number in hospital is nine, or about two per cent. on the daily average prison population. The sanitary condition of this prison, therefore, is highly satisfactory, and is attributable to the habits of cleanliness which are enforced, as well as to the good quality and fair measure of prison rations.

District Prisons.

196. Most of the remarks applied to the Prison of Port Louis are equally applicable to the prisons of the districts, in all of which combined (seven in number) there are not quite so many prisoners as in the Gaol of Port Louis alone. Capital crimes, and all higher misdemeanours, are tried in Port Louis; and the municipal prisoners, and the vagrants who are brought to justice in the town, help to swell the prison ranks, irrespectively of the amount of ordinary crime to be expected from the larger number of its fixed urban population.

197. I have no particular remarks to make about these District Prisons, further than by saying that none of them possess the improved character and accommodation of modern prisons, and few of them deserve the appellation of prisons, in the most ordinary acceptation of the term.

THE DEPENDENCIES.

198. I have little to say on the subject of our Dependencies, which are so distant from this Island, and with which there is so little communication, that, beyond the correspondence and occasional reports proceeding from the Civil Commissioner, and relating to the ordinary business of the islands, I feel myself almost a stranger to their interests, and see at present but little prospect of materially improving their condition.

199. To meet the wants of the present occupants of these islands, very little seems to be required beyond an encouragement to industrial pursuits, to which, for the most part, they are strangers. Their mode of life is exceedingly simple; their habits are indolent; their positive wants are few and easily supplied; and their artificial wants, which should prompt them to laborious pursuits, are so trifling in their present state of society as scarcely to encourage the hope that they will prompt them to much exertion.

200. The Civil Commissioner, however, uses his best endeavours to promote the improvement of the population, and to encourage them to enterprising industry in any of the numerous fields which present themselves. But, like all small communities in which the stimulus for industry is not felt, the results are not likely to manifest themselves to any great extent; and, until a few enterprising capitalists take possession of some of the soil of those islands, and are instrumental in importing labour into them, no great change can be expected in their condition, and the improvement of the present occupants must be very gradual.

201. I have built much expectation on a regular postal communication with the Seychelles, as a means of producing important improvements in those Dependencies, and if the arrangements which will soon be completed for our postal service should include the duty of touching at the Seychelles, both in going and returning, it will give me every confidence that the beneficial effects which will be expected from capital, enterprise, and newly-imported labour will be successfully carried out, for it is certain that, whatever opening a country may offer for the employment of capital and labour, neither the one nor the other will be found there unless the means of communication can be facilitated, and a market thereby opened for their products.

202. Since the alterations that I have made in our postal service, I have required the packets to touch at the Seychelles, both in going and returning, whenever they could do so without detriment to the punctual service of the Colony; and this arrangement has been carried out as far as practicable, and has already produced some beneficial results.

203. But the arrangement being merely provisional, and the packet service still imperfect, no further advantage can be expected than the evidence which will be furnished to the inhabitants of the Seychelles that, whenever they send the products of their labour and industry to this island, a ready and a profitable market will be opened to them here.

204. I have not yet received the Civil Commissioner's Official Report for the Blue Book, but I am satisfied, from the short periodical returns he makes, with the endeavour he is using for improvement of those Dependencies, and for the advantage of the present inhabitants, and, being a practical man of business, I am sure that he will endeavour to carry out the object of improvement to the best of his ability, so far as the small means at his disposal will enable him to do so.

205. The church, which is alluded to in last year's Report, is slowly advancing towards completion; and the educational efforts, which are necessarily very small, are as satisfactory as can be expected under the difficulties both of means and machinery.

206. Until the islands can produce more revenue, it seems scarcely justifiable to furnish from this Colony alone all the means and machinery that are required for educational and other improvement of the present inhabitants, to a greater extent than those wants are at present supplied. I nevertheless think that more should be done for them in this respect, without reference to our prospective improved advantages, or to the chances of reimbursement from any possible sources of improved future revenue.

MAURITIUS.

207. But I feel satisfied that the mere education of those people, unless it be coupled with some industrial teaching, which will give them an idea of its value, by producing some tangible result in a familiar and profitable shape, will not have any permanent effect; and I think that this Government would be reluctant to contribute much towards the object of education alone, unless they saw a reasonable chance of benefit to the people, by engendering those industrial habits and artificial wants which would prompt them to exertion in the pursuit of profitable industry, and sooner or later assist in developing the resources of the country, and in showing its powers of raising a self-supporting revenue equal to all its future demands.

General Remarks.

208. The favourable anticipations of the continuing prosperity of the Island are still realized. The Colony stands pre-eminent for the triumph achieved by immigration conducted upon a liberal scale, coupled with improved farming and superior machinery for the development of the resources of the Colony.

209. Fifteen years ago, the value of Indian labour was almost unknown in the country. Last year the imported population numbered nearly 140,000 souls, and with the augmenting population the staple product and manufacture of the country has continued to improve in gradual progressive augmentation.

210. This large supply of Indian labour has not, however, been without its evils. The two severe invasions of cholera, which occurred in 1854 and 1856, swept off large numbers of the native population of the Island, and occasioned serious apprehensions as to the future visitations of that fearful disease.

211. Although every precaution has been used by the imposition of laws and penalties, and enormous expenditure incurred in the erection of stations, yet the difficulties of dealing with Indian immigration on a large scale, with reference to quarantine and sanitary regulations, have been very serious. Those difficulties still continue to a great degree, although they are becoming gradually removed, as facilities for the enforcement of quarantine are made more complete. But still, as long as Indian migration lasts, the apprehension of epidemic visitations will never be entirely removed; and, occasionally, when three or four vessels arrive with cholera on board, rendering it necessary (as is the case at this moment) to place nearly a thousand persons in close quarantine at Flat Island, the alarms are very great, and the anxieties of the Government to allay them by the use of unremitting precautions are necessarily very deep.

212. The long-agitated question of a quarantine establishment at Rodrigues has now been determined against the adoption of that station, its distance, 350 miles from this island, notwithstanding all its other advantages, rendering it impossible to preserve that strict surveillance and discipline which a quarantine station must always command, so that the Flat Island station has been advanced in its importance and accommodation; and an auxiliary one at " Ile Benitiers," as a station of observation, and for the relief of the principal station when overcrowded, is likewise in contemplation.

213. The character of the peasantry of this Colony has by this extensive immigration become entirely changed. The Indians have superseded the native population as agricultural labourers; and while the value of immigration has been proved as the regenerator of agricultural prosperity, the same evidence equally attests the fact that, for the production of the staples of the country on a large scale, the native population have proved utterly valueless.

214. The comparatively small numbers now employed on sugar estates show that very shortly that class of labourers will soon become unknown; indeed, the relation of master and servant is obnoxious to them in any form, the recollection of past days among the old, and the traditions of slavery among the young, inducing the apprehension that every species of *service* is *servitude.* For this reason they dislike even the idea of "apprenticeship" to trades, and think they can follow the latter by intuition rather than regular instruction.

215. With this alteration in the character of the peasantry, corresponding changes in the laws and in the mode of dealing with the new population have not been sufficiently efficacious. They are still defective in many respects, and they require consolidation and amendment, as well as addition, to adapt them to the wants and requirements of the new people.

216. As the Indian population in their character of agricultural labourers and domestic servants, are the principal clients of the Stipendiary Magistrates, and furnish them with ample occupation in their courts, it has been considered necessary to augment the numbers of those Magistrates, and to separate their duties from those of the District Magistrates, in order that they may be enabled to do sufficient justice to that portion of the population peculiarly intrusted to their magisterial care and control.

217. These and other improvements, which will be beneficial to the planter as well as to the Indian population, have been sanctioned by the Government, and are now in operation or in progress.

218. One peculiarity in this Colony is the concentration of its urban population in the city of Port Louis alone, which contains at least one fourth of the entire population of the island. There is no other town in the island, nor is there, in any of the rural districts, any aggregation of houses or inhabitants deserving the appellation of a village, with the exception of Mahébourg, which is a military station, and Pamplemousses, which may possess some pretensions to the designation of a village.

219. The difficulty that has resulted from this is the impossibility of procuring accommodation for Magistrates and their clerks and other district functionaries, while the want of centralisation of district populations is fatal to general improvement, either as regards education or other social advantages.

220. The object which I have long had in view, and which I hope will soon tend to remove these difficulties, is an attempt at the formation of small towns, by erecting the few public buildings that are

required in each district in convenient central situations, making them in each case the nucleus of a town, and offering encouragement to others to extend the operations by building their own houses and cottages, so as gradually to form a well-arranged and creditable district town.

221. The limited accommodation afforded by the harbour of Port Louis for the large number of vessels by which it is always thronged also prompts the necessity of establishing a second maritime town in the island, and the harbour of Mahébourg, which was first resorted to by the early colonists, and afterwards abandoned for the more favourable position of Port Louis, offers every advantage for renewed encouragement. It has indeed been used on two or three very recent occasions as a port of entry and clearance, for which it was sanctioned more than 20 years ago; and as its re-establishment will afford the greatest benefit to the sugar plantations on that side of the Island, and the proposed railway through the south-eastern districts will give them ready access to its harbour, I have it in contemplation to accelerate the improvement of that port, for the threefold purpose of benefiting the inhabitants and agriculturists of that quarter, furnishing better accommodation to our district functionaries there, and relieving the town of Port Louis of a large number of its redundant inhabitants.

222. Important as may have been the improvements gradually made during the last few years, very many more still remain to be accomplished. As is invariably the case in all communities in which great staple products give large accession of wealth to particular individuals engaged in agricultural occupations, and corresponding prosperity to those engaged in mercantile pursuits, trades, and lucrative employments, so does it follow that minor advantages are to a great degree neglected, and social benefits are comparatively disregarded.

223. Those who are engaged in the pursuit of wealth will not find time to devote to these duties, which they erroneously regard as secondary or inferior. Those who are not so engaged do not possess the means of embarking in them; for in precisely the same ratio in which wealth is showered on the planter, the merchant, and the tradesman, do difficulties encompass those who do not participate in those prosperous undertakings; and in a busy country like this, very few, if any, are to be found who are ready to give their time and attention, irrespectively of their means, to those works which promote the great social progress of communities.

224. To this may be in a great measure attributed the defective state of all those institutions which are found to flourish elsewhere. Churches are required, schoolhouses are greatly needed, asylums and hospitals are wanted in the districts, and the few which exist in the town call for careful supervision and improvement. Mechanics' institutes, and other institutions intended for the improvement of the people, are nowhere to be found. Prisons are defective, and in some parts of the Island wholly wanting. And, more than all, the agency and assistance of spirited private individuals who would take a lively interest in all these social advancements is very severely felt.

225. The impression in this Island is, that all these matters rest with the Government alone, and therefore few private persons will embark in the work of social improvement. The time and labour of official men and of Government employés of all degrees are already too much engrossed in their public duties to enable them to devote as much attention as is needed to these important objects; but I hope soon to induce more active private instrumentality in these respects; indeed I think a change has already commenced.

226. Among the civil institutions which are inadequate to the wants of the Colony, is the police establishment of the town and rural districts. The great difficulty in organising a good police arises out of the peculiar disposition and temperament of the people who generally engage in that service.

227. The mixed varieties of races and languages make it exceedingly difficult to discipline and instruct the police in their most ordinary duties; and the numerous calls for their services for quarantine purposes, guarding prisoners, and apprehending vagrants, as well as in the performance of other duties which do not very properly belong to the "police," have very greatly tended to detract from their efficiency; while at the same time their numbers have by these means been so reduced as to render them wholly unequal to the increased requirements of the country. The improvement of this force will soon engage legislative attention.

228. I think it unnecessary to dwell much on the condition of our public offices, which, notwithstanding the improvements which may have taken place, are still unequal to the duties required of them.

229. Those duties have more than doubled since the great general prosperity of the Island has manifested itself; the work has increased in every department, but the workmen have not been augmented, neither has their extra labour been requited by any corresponding augmentation of their pay.

230. On the contrary, it may be said that their pay has been reduced, for, although the amounts they receive may remain the same in figures, the value of money is less, and the price of all articles of consumption is greater. The real income of 1858 is not more than two thirds the real income of 1848, and yet the public services which such income is intended to repay are more than double those of the former year.

231. The representations I have been obliged to make to the Government upon this point will no doubt produce improvements in the public service in this and other respects, which are in all its branches very loudly demanded.

232. Upon the whole review of the past and present condition of the Colony, I feel every confidence that by carrying out all the objects of improvement suggested by my predecessor, and promoting others, but augmenting in both cases the means of advancing them with that more liberal expenditure which recent changes in the circumstances of the Colony demand, but at the same time without incurring the charge of unnecessary extravagance, there will soon be as marked an improvement in the public and social institutions of the Colony as at present exists in its general wealth and prosperity, and my best exertions for the accomplishment of these objects, under Divine assistance, shall not be relaxed.

WILLIAM STEVENSON.

The Right Hon. Sir E. B. Lytton, Bart.
&c. &c. &c.

PART III.

AFRICAN SETTLEMENTS AND ST. HELENA.

PART III.—AFRICAN SETTLEMENTS AND ST. HELENA.

SIERRA LEONE.

No. 52.

SIERRA LEONE.

No. 25.

COPY of DESPATCH from Governor HILL to the Right Hon. Lord STANLEY.

(No. 76.) Government House, Sierra Leone, April 30, 1858.

MY LORD, (Received June 8, 1858.)

I HAVE the honour to forward by this opportunity the duplicate copy of the Blue Book for the year 1857.

2. Having in my report on the Blue Book for 1856 entered fully into the statistical details of the colony, it does not seem necessary that I should travel over the same ground. I will therefore confine myself to a few general observations.

3. I am happy to be able to state that the revenue of the colony indicates a decided improvement in its trade. In the Customs alone there has beeen an increase of 3,453*l.* 16*s.* over the receipts of the previous year. This increase has been derived from the following sources, viz.:

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Imports - - - - -	1,895	5	0
Tonnage dues - - - -	919	7	0
Light dues - - - -	135	13	0
Harbour dues - - -	345	19	3
Auction duties - - - -	157	11	9

4. A rigid enforcement of the law with respect to spirit licences has had the effect of putting a stop to much illicit trade, and an increase to the revenue of 696*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* on that item has been the result.

5. I am not however so sanguine as to believe that the customs will yield the same revenue this year as the last; merchants may be overstocked, and the commercial panic with which the mother country was stricken during the year just brought to a close can hardly fail to exercise its influence in checking the flow of trade.

6. There can be no doubt that the security which this colony affords over the settlements of the neighbouring tribes renders it a safe and desirable place of deposit for merchandise, and the bonding system being in full operation makes the warehousing of their goods of little or no expense to the merchants.

7. Whether as a fiscal arrangement it would not be desirable to abolish the bonding system altogether, and reduce the rate of duties, is a problem to which I have not as yet been able to find a satisfactory solution. It appears to me just now too doubtful to be ventured upon.

8. The colonial expenditure shows a decrease of 300*l.* in comparison with the previous year, and I shall continue to exercise the utmost watchfulness in order to keep it within due bounds.

9 The colony is fortunately not burdened with any public debt. 2,800*l.* are held in deposits which can be liquidated at any moment, although there is reason to believe that there are no known representatives to the far greater portion, and that consequently no demand will ever be made for the same, as the amount is chiefly made up of deposits from unrepresented estates.

10. The colony has not hitherto had to sustain any expense on account of its military defences, these having been borne by the imperial Government, and a detachment of the 1st West India regiment has been stationed here during the past year. Having succeeded in passing the militia ordinance and appointing the officers, I hope soon to be able to call out and embody such a number of men for drill as will secure a valuable auxiliary force to Her Majesty's troops. This corps, after the first outlay for clothing and accoutrements for the men, can be supported at little cost; and I would take this

opportunity of expressing my acknowledgments to Her Majesty's Government for the very generous present of eight hundred rifles and 100,000 rounds of ball cartridge which the Secretary of State for War has been pleased to make to the colony for the service of its militia.

11. The public works are generally speaking in good condition; and I hope this year to be able to begin the long contemplated wharf, which, when completed, will afford great facility to the merchants and Her Majesty's ships, and I have no doubt improve our general trade.

12. The most important ordinances which passed during the year have doubtless been those for the settlement of claims to grants of land and the registration ordinance. I may also congratulate myself on having succeeded in obtaining a general codification of the laws in force in the colony, which having been published in a neat volume cannot fail to be of great service to the legal profession and the public at large.

13. The ecclesiastical and educational establishments of the colony are in an improving state. The parish school in St. George's is well attended; and, with the advice and consent of the Council, I have given the children's pence to the colonial chaplain, to assist him in increasing the staff of monitors.

14. The trade of the colony as shown by its imports and exports has been as follows:—

From Great Britain—
Imports 143,203*l.* 16*s.*, against 90,539*l.* 13*s.* 11*d.* Exports thereto.

From British Colonies—
Imports 770*l.* 2*s.* 1*d.*, against 6,582*l.* 1*s.* 6*d.* Exports.

From France—
Imports 1,831*l.* 13*s.* 2*d.*, against 5,062*l.* 10*s.* Exports.

From the coast of Africa—
Imports 10,596*l.* 1*s.* 7*d.*, against 90,071*l.* 9*s.* 10*d.* Exports.

From the United States of America—
Imports 16,017*l.* 6*s.* 9*d.*, against 50,071*l.* 16*s.* 10*d.* Exports.

15. I ventured in my report on the proceedings of the year 1856 to predict a satisfactory progress in the increasing prosperity of the colony, and I now have the gratification of remarking that my anticipations on this head have been fully realized during the past year 1857.

I have, &c.
(Signed) STEPHEN J. HILL,
Governor.

The Right Hon. the Secretary of State,
&c. &c. &c.

GAMBIA.

No. 26.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor O'CONNOR to the Right Honourable Sir E. BULWER LYTTON, Bart.

(No. 30.)

Government House,
Bathurst, Gambia, July 10, 1858.
(Received August 9, 1858.)

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit the "Blue Book" of this colony for 1857.

Revenue.

2. The monetary crisis in "England and France," the failures of eminent houses in the "United States," operated, more or less, on the commercial interests of Gambia, reduced the importation of European and foreign goods, of rum and tobacco, staple commodities of trade among the natives, and thereby the customs due were slightly diminished when compared with 1856. On the other hand, the demand of tonnage for the ground nut trade considerably increased.

GAMBIA.

Imports and Exports.

3. The total value of imports in 1856 amounted to 108,852*l.* 5*s.*, in 1857 increased to 118,620*l.* 8*s.* 5*d.*, an augmentation of 9,768*l.* 3*s.* 5*d.* In 1856 the exports 176,577*l.* 9*s.* 11*d.* in 1857 increased to 201,672*l.* 19*s.* 2*d.*, an augmentation of 25,094*l.* 9*s.* 3*d.* This excess in imports and exports arose from the progressive and prosperous condition of the ground nut trade, mainly promoted by our peaceful relations with the nations and tribes adjacent to the British territory along the banks of the River Gambia to the most distant factory, "Yaboo Tenda," 350 miles from Bathurst.

4. 10,874 tons of ground nuts, valued at 130,496*l.* 8*s.*, were exported in 1856; 13,554 tons of ground nuts, valued at 162,649*l.* 11*s.* 6*d.*, were exported in 1857, an increase of 2,680 tons and of 32,153*l.* 3*s.* 6*d.* sterling in *one* article alone in twelve months.

Public Works.

5. The only public works undertaken and completed during 1857 were a court room and gaol under the one roof, and a market at M'Carthy's Island. A confined ruinous half stone and mud building had been used as a prison for debtors and criminals for many years, and a miserable shed for the market.

6. At the trifling expenditure of 61*8l.* a lot and building were purchased, the latter converted into a gaol with well ventilated rooms, and a court yard for debtors and cells for criminals.

7. The market, constructed for 70*l.*, has not only increased the cleanliness and comfort of the inhabitants, but yields an annual revenue of 30*l.*, a profitable per centage for the original outlay.

8. A roomy shed in an enclosed yard has been appropriated to the use of the tread-mill sent out on my recommendation, thereby saving the expense of erecting a new building.

9. My opinion in favour of the tread-mill has been confirmed, that by degrees it will deter hardened offenders from committing crimes which would subject them to the disgusting punishment of "public whipping." A man's mind and morals are seldom improved by lacerating his back with the lash, but the tread-mill, totally unknown, and a marvellous machine in Africa, produces a wholesome dread of its operations, and demanding regular and constant exertion, brief as the time may be, tends to prevent the natives from violating the rules of civilized society, and consequently will diminish crime.

10. The tread-mill may be applied to useful purposes, sawing beams, boards, planks, or blocks of stone as in York Castle, or, with extra machinery, cleaning and bruising corn, rice, millet, or other grain.

GEOGRAPHICAL AND COMMERCIAL.

Expeditions.

11. In November and December I undertook a geographical expedition in Her Majesty's colonial steamer "Dover," six hundred miles down the coast, proceeding up the "Jeba" and "Rio Grande" rivers, visiting the scarcely known and singularly interesting "Bijuga Islands," especially Kanabec and Orango, the latter a rich, fertile, picturesque island upwards of twenty-eight miles in length, with a wild, savagely reputed, but finely framed and, to me, civil population, the country and the natives presenting a vast field for commercial speculation.

12. The Orango islanders are wrapped in singular obscurity, and greatly dreaded even by the ancient, once enterprising pioneers of Africa, the Portuguese. The difficult and dangerous channel leading to their island was unsurveyed, I may say unsailed over, until the keel of the "Dover" ploughed its waters.

13. With regard to the natives and islanders on the western coast of Africa, I cordially coincide in the opinion of the experienced traveller Livingstone that "no permanent elevation of a people can be effected without commerce."

14. After some hazardous attempts we discovered the channel and mouth of the "Kittafiny River," north of the "Rio Nunez," and where an association composed of an English subject, a Frenchman, and an Italian was reported by the Portuguese Government to exist.

15. Crossing the shallow bar we ran the steamer as far up the river as was safe and practicable, when I landed and inspected the factories of Messrs. Becaise, Colombino, and M. Le Cerf; but it is superfluous for me to dwell upon further particulars, having already forwarded detailed reports and charts of the "Orango Channel" and "Kittafiny River."

16. In February and March, I made my usual visit to the several kings, chiefs, and head men, on and adjacent to the banks of the river Gambia as far as the "Falls of Barraconda."

17. On this occasion I ascended the "Vintain Creek," and penetrated the "Sanding Creek" for some distance, which, in my opinion, connects the Gambia with the Rio Cazamances—a geographical question well worthy of solution; for if my conjecture proved correct the danger and difficulty of communication between Gambia and the "Rio Cazamances" would become considerably diminished, the bar of the latter being always hazardous, frequently impassable.

18. It would always prevent our wax traders from being plundered by wild Feeloops and Jolahs, who seriously impede this valuable branch of our trade.

19. My report of an expedition up the "Rio Cazamances" in 1855, the progressive encroachments of the French at the expense of the Portuguese, the old and legitimate discoverers of the river and once possessors of the chief factories on its banks, is becoming verified, and the importance attached by the French to the possession and the monopoly of the Rio Cazamances are very cleverly and clearly exhibited in the report of M. Bocandé to the minister of marine.

Military.

20. The military buildings at Gambia, including those at M'Carthy's island, have undergone very necessary and sanatary repairs and improvements. The soldiers barrack at Bathurst will now afford ample accommodation for one hundred and eighty men, with eight separate double quarters for non-commissioned officers.

21. The piazza and ends of the officers' barracks exposed to the violence of the tornadoes and scorching influence of the sun, jalousied and partitioned, give protection from the weather and heat, and a small second room to each officer.

22. The military hospital has been considerably improved, and a double flooring, with asphalted felt between the boards, effectually protect the officers quartered in the upper story from the disagreeable consequences which must be produced by the inmates of a basement story in an hospital in a climate like Western Africa.

23. The important post at Cape Saint Marys, the key-stone of Bathurst, I have long and sedulously advocated as the proper head-quarters for the troops, is undergoing improvements and repairs.

General Observations.

24. Having already furnished five Blue Books embracing statistical returns, tables, and reports of Her Majesty's settlements on the river Gambia, little remains for me to add save that the colony and colonists are gradually and steadily progressing, that my opinion of the native merchants, traders, artificers, and commonalty of Bathurst so fully and freely given in the Blue Book for 1856 is justified and confirmed, and that the day is not far distant when Gambia from its geographical position, the means it presents by a noble river navigable for three hundred and fifty miles, as the easiest road into the interior, spreading among the wild and wandering natives European wants, customs, manners, commerce, and, what must follow, civilization, creating a market for our home manufactures, and conveying from distant dimly known regions their varied and valuable productions, affording to the denizens of the desert flocking to the Colony security of person and property, a legitimate and liberal opportunity for reciprocal trading, gradually by slow but sure degrees teaching and convincing them that settled, peaceful pursuits are far more pleasurable and profitable than the erratic, savage, demoralizing existence, bearing in its train bloodshed, plunder, slavery of their forefathers, and blindly followed by themselves.

25. I repeat the day is not far distant when Gambia will rank as the most valuable possession of the British, in commercial importance, on the western coast of Africa.

I have, &c.
(Signed) L. SMYTH O'CONNOR.

The Right Hon. Sir E. B. Lytton, Bart.
&c. &c. &c.

GoldCoast.

GOLD COAST.

No. 27.

No. 27.

Copy of DESPATCH from Governor Sir Benj. C. C. Pine to the Right Hon. Lord Stanley, M.P.

(No. 48.)

Cape Coast Castle, 10 May 1858.
(Received 13th July 1858.)

My Lord,

I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship the Blue Book for the year 1857.

As I have so fully described the state of these settlements in numerous despatches during the past year, I do not deem it necessary to trouble your Lordship with any special report upon this document, particularly as the returns relating to the Eastern District which, until very lately, had been long virtually severed from the Protectorate, are necessarily very imperfect.

I would beg, however, to call your Lordship's attention to the interesting Medical Report of Dr. Clarke, one of the Colonial Surgeons, which is embodied in the Blue Book.

I have, &c.

Right Hon. Lord Stanley,
&c. &c. &c.

(Signed) BENJ^n. C. C. PINE,
Governor.

St. Helena.

ST. HELENA.

No. 28.

No. 28.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Governor Hay to the Right Honourable the Secretary of State.

(No. 32.)

St. Helena, May 5, 1858.
(Received July 3, 1858.)

My Lord,

I have the honour to transmit herewith the St. Helena Blue Book for 1857.

2. The returns of the past year are generally favourable, the number of the transient shipping having somewhat increased.

3. Dependent for its existence as a colony on the vessels calling at the port for supplies, the island must ordinarily experience from year to year no changes in material prosperity which are not referable to that source.

4. The revenue and expenditure each exceed those of the preceding year, the number of ships being, in 1856, 1,107, in 1857, 1,119.

5. The revenue for 1857 exceeds that of the previous year by 1,685*l.*, and amounts to 18,801*l.*; it is derived principally from port dues, under which head the returns show a sum of 15,145*l.*, and of this nearly one half, viz., 7,185*l.*, is derived from the duties on spirits, wine, and beer alone, the consumption of which articles (incidental to the nature of the passing traffic and population) supplies more than four tenths of the entire revenue of the island.

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Import duties on spirits, &c. - -	7,185	5	0
Licences to sell spirits, &c. -	825	0	0
Total revenue from spirits, &c. -	8,010	5	0

The import duties on all other articles amount only to 3,025*l.*

6. The principal charge on shipping is the tonnage due of one penny, the revenue from which, amounting to 2,591*l.* 12*s.* 2*d.*, is specially appropriated to the maintenance of the civil hospital and gaol, both of which institutions receive annually a large number of the seafaring class.

7. The remainder of the revenue collected at the custom house is more or less of the nature of payments for value received, such as warehouse rents, supply of water, &c.

8. The duties of customs, which were previous to 1853 principally ad valorem, were in that year entirely remodelled, and a system of dues established under the head of "wharfage," by which, with some few exceptions, every imported package was made liable (instead of an ad valorem rate) to a trifling fixed charge irrespective of the nature of its contents.

9. This measure has worked most satisfactorily. The duties now imposed are especially adapted to the local circumstances. The insignificance of the charges on the importation of all the necessaries of life entirely deprives them of the character of taxation, while the proceedings at the custom house are simplified, and commercial business facilitated.

10. The value of the imports and exports of the colony for the years 1856 and 1857 is—

	Imports. £	Exports. £
1856 - -	101,562	24,925
1857 - -	132,354	35,139

11. The internal taxation is of small account, amounting to no more than 1,615*l.* 12*s.* 10*d.*

12. The entire inland revenue amounts to 3,656*l.*, of which the sum of 1,229*l* is rent of Crown lands, and 526*l.* in the shape of miscellaneous receipts, such as fines and fees, postage, sales of property, &c. Of the actual taxation, viz. 1,615*l.* 12*s.* 10*d.*, more than one half, viz. 825*l.*, is derived from licences to sell spirits, &c.

13. The return of expenditure, amounting to 19,097*l.*, shows a slight increase under the heads of the militia for clothing and rations, and the civil hospital, on account of the large number of patients incidental to the increase of shipping. The principal item, however, is the sum of 2,400*l.*, paid to the colonial agent during the past year, in liquidation of the current debt for advances in England, in respect of which the payments from the colonial chest had previously fallen somewhat in arrear.

14. There are large demands for expenditure on public works which there are no funds at present to meet. The most prominent of these are the extension of the landing and enlargement of the wharf, and the improvement of the dwellings of the poor in James Town. The chief expenditure during the past year appears under the several heads of roads, supply of water for James Town and the shipping, repairs of public buildings, and drainage of the town. The waterworks, which have been completed during the year, are now capable of supplying 200 tons of water per diem to the shipping.

15. The improvement of the drainage of the town, which is progressing slowly, ought to be accompanied with the substitution of descent and wholesome dwellings for the wretched hovels in the back streets and immediate neighbourhood of the drains, where a certain class of the population have for years resided in a state of demoralizing dirt, if not in conscious misery. This work remains, however, suspended for want of means.

16. My attention has been of late especially directed to a want at this port to which I have pointed in previous correspondence, of the proper means and appliances for heaving down and repairing large vessels. This island being in the direct line of the passage homewards of all vessels from the east, and the port the only one they can make at all times and in all seasons, is resorted to by many vessels in distress, which are subjected, through want of the necessary appliances, to harassing delay and expenses.

17. An instance of this kind now exists in the harbour, where an English ship of 2,000 tons burden has been lying for three months, and although on several occasions assisted by Her Majesty's ships that chanced to call in, and every effort has been made for the purpose of fitting her for sea again, she is no further advanced towards refitting than when first she entered the harbour. Had there been a dock or slip she would ere this have left the port in a seaworthy condition.

18. It is no doubt the interest of the mercantile body in England to take the necessary steps to meet this want, to the importance of which the colonists are very much alive, and ready to afford every co-operation within their means, Without the countenance, however, of Her Majesty's Government, the undertaking is scarcely likely to assume a practicable shape.

19. The surface of the island, of which nearly two thirds are a barren waste, consists of 30,300 acres, which may be classified thus—

Pasture - - - - -	7,652 acres
Fit for tillage - - - - -	3,200 „
Forest, orchard, &c. - - -	663 „
More or less barren - - - -	18,780 „

and of the land fit for tillage there are about 500 acres under cultivation.

20. The transient population is calculated at 30,000 per annum. The resident population, including 521 soldiers, cannot be said to amount to 6,000. No census has been

ST. HELENA.

taken since 1851, when the number was 5,490. The returns of births and deaths have varied very much in proportion, and their comparative data cannot be depended on, in consequence of the registry of births not being compulsory. To meet this difficulty an ordinance is now in progress. A census will be taken in 1861, so as to obtain a decennial enumeration of the inhabitants.

21. With a population of less than 6,000 souls, it is obvious that the ready profits to be obtained from the investment of money or labour in the active traffic or even desultory vocations of a sea port, frequented by 1,119 ships in the course of the year, must leave little inducement (beyond the demands of the shipping for fresh provisions) to the devotion of capital of any kind to the more precarious as well as more laborious operations of agriculture, and the population of the town, compared with the rest of the island, is as 10 to 6. It is not, therefore, matter of surprise, that of the 3,200 acres of land fit for tillage, of which 1,600 are capable of producing wheat, only 500 acres are cultivated.

22. The best of the land now in cultivation belongs to the Crown, and is held by tenants of capital and intelligence, who, having enterprize, and means enough to try experiments, have proved that wheat, barley, and oats may be grown successfully, both as relates to the return of produce and its remunerative value.

23. The produce per acre varies from 20 to 25 bushels, and the price from 9*s.* to 15*s.* per bushel. The expense of cultivation I have not been able to ascertain ; but I gather that, notwithstanding the very high wages and inferior labour in this island, the invest ment in corn-land, as far as it goes, promises to be highly profitable.

24. With a view to encourage the growth of wheat, a flour mill was erected, at the cost of the local government, in 1856. It was intended to be worked by cattle, but that being found impracticable it is proposed that steam power should as soon as possible be put in operation.

25. The wheat, of which there are upwards of 4,000 bushels ready for the mill, is grown principally at Longwood, which estate, leased from the Crown, is under enterprizing and skilful management. The grain which thrives better than any other yet tried in the island is the bearded or summer wheat, a secondary kind, I believe. A portion is ground at a small private mill, and the flour, though not of a superior quality, makes wholesome bread, which sells well at a lower price than that made from imported flour.

26. I attach the more importance to this particular branch of local industry, in consequence of the prospect it affords of ultimate improvement in the condition of the natives.

27. The principal articles of consumption with the people of this island are fish and rice, which, while every other article, except wine, is enormously dear, are to be had in sufficient quantity to maintain life at a very low price.

28. The climate, not intensely hot as in other tropical climates, is sufficiently genial to promote appreciation of the "dolce far niente," the small cost of the bare means of subsistence attainable by a very few hours work at high wages, the commonest labourer never obtaining less than 1*s.* 6*d.* a day, and more generally from 2*s.* to 3*s.*, and sometimes 4*s.* 6*d.*, these combine naturally to produce a low physical as well as moral condition.

29. The successful production of wheat may probably lead to the investment of capital in land now laying more or less uncultivated, being for the most part in the hands of gentlemen in very much reduced if not involved circumstances. A fresh stimulus may be given to labour, and a higher order of physical comfort not only be attainable but become necessary, and with the improvement of their physical condition and industrial energies the moral character of the people will naturally progress.

30. The cultivable land in the island is amply sufficient to provide food of every kind, not only for the entire population, but to leave a considerable surplus to meet the demands of the shipping. The soil, to the extent I have named, is as rich on the average as any in the world; it produces now with ease, and is capable of producing in profusion, the vegetation of all parts of the world, from the sugar cane, coffee, banana, and mango, to the cabbage, potato, apple, and blackberry. The fir, the oak; and other valuable timber trees grow equally well with the trees peculiar to the climate.

31. The timber has never been extensively used; this, with most other branches of internal interest, having yielded to the absorbing attraction of the port and shipping; but it may probably be found that timber for many purposes, in common with other products hitherto imported from abroad, is to be obtained on the spot, at a sacrifice of the usual care and attention, but at a comparatively small cost, by making use of the natural advantages near at hand.

32. The pasture lands, stated at 7,652 acres, are open to great improvement and extension, a considerable quantity of what is now classified as waste land being capable of redemption, and of raising on the spot the amount of live stock now imported from

abroad, viz., about 2,250 head of sheep and 250 oxen per annum. The number of horned cattle actually on the island is said to be 1,625, and of sheep 4,230; the number of tons of hay made on the island, 220.

33. The militia of the island, consisting of 340 men and 22 officers, is a very respectable force, maintained entirely at the expense of the colony. The annual expenditure is about 500*l.*, exclusive of clothing, which costs about 1,000*l.* every four years, making an annual average expense of 750*l.*

34. There is also a volunteer corps, which was formed during the late war in 1854, and is maintained entirely at the expense of the gentlemen composing it, numbering 40 in all, including officers, to whom great credit is due for the completeness with which they have carried out their loyal object.

35. There are several associations, in the shape of friendly or benefit societies, very respectably conducted. The total number of members is 1,393. There is an island society for the promotion of improvements in all local branches of industry. There are also a Church society and a benevolent society, both supported by private subscriptions. The name of the Church society is sufficiently indicative of its object. The benevolent is entirely devoted to schools, of which it supports four, the number benefiting by their tuition amounting to 257.

36. Religious instruction, as far as the number of clergy is concerned, is amply provided. There are five clergyman of the Church of England more or less supported by the colony, besides an assistant chaplain to the forces, a Roman Catholic clergyman, and a Baptist missionary.

37. The colonial chaplain, who is also archdeacon, is paid entirely by the colony. Two clergymen are similarly paid as schoolmasters, who act also with two others appointed by the bishop as assistants to the colonial chaplain, and receive in that capacity some addition to their stipends from other sources.

38. The funds from which the clergy are paid are contributed from various sources in the following proportions:—

	£	
Colonial treasury - - -	770	per annum
Local Church society - - -	190	„
„ Private contributions - -	50	„
„ Offertory - - -	60	„
„ Pew rents - - -	150	„
Total local funds - - -	1,220	„
Bishop of diocese - - -	130	„
Total -	1,350	

39. There are two church edifices in the island at present, and funds have been raised towards the erection of two more, one of which is now in progress, but delayed for want of sufficient means; the other has not yet been commenced. There is also a baptist chapel, a well-built and well-attended edifice.

40. The returns under the head of education are so far satisfactory that they shew about 800 children under tuition, including those at the regimental and private schools, of which there is no return. Taking the entire population at something below 6,000, and the number of children between the ages of 5 and 12 to be 20 per cent., there are not less than 70 per cent. of the children under instruction.

41. I propose in the estimates for 1859 to include an additional provision for schools, so as to afford instruction to those now excluded, from want of sufficient room in the existing buildings, and of a proper number of qualified teachers.

42. I subjoin abstracts from the returns of convictions of all kinds during the year. Drunkenness and petty theft figure as the principal offences, there being only one case of a native convicted of grave crime. Of the 323 convictions before the magistrates, however, 191 are of natives, and of these 105 were for drunkenness, 16 for assaults, and 20 for petty theft, the latter a very prevailing characteristic of the people, who are generally otherwise, with the exception of the drunkenness and disorder incidental to the seaport, peaceful and well behaved.

43. Accompanying the Blue Book are the comparative statements of the estimated and actual revenue and expenditure of the island for the past year.

I have, &c.

(Signed) E. H. DRUMMOND HAY.

The Right Hon. the Secretary of State,
&c. &c. &c.

ST. HELENA.

CLASSIFIED RETURN of PRISONERS in GAOL.

1857.

NATURE OF THE CRIME.	Male.	Female.	British.	Foreign.	Native.	TOTAL.
Assault	9	2	4	—	7	11
Shooting with intent	1	—	1	—	—	1
Stabbing with intent	2	—	—	2	—	2
Breaking a warehouse	2	—	—	—	2	2
Stealing	16	4	2	—	18	20
Attempt at bestiality	1	—	—	—	1	1
Vagrants	3	5	—	—	8	8
Drunk and riotous	12	11	5	—	18	23
Nonpayment of fine	6	1	2	—	5	7
Misdemeanor	3	—	1	2	—	3
Refusing to pay licence	1	—	1	—	—	1
Malicious injury	2	—	1	—	1	2
Refusing to proceed to sea	32	—	32	—	—	32
Embezzlement, ships' stores	1	—	1	—	—	1
Remanded cases	10	—	2	2	6	10
Committed for trial	6	—	2	1	3	6
Debt	10	4	—	—	14	14
Refractory conduct in gaol	1	—	1	—	—	1
Nonpayment, militia fine	10	—	—	—	10	10
Courts-martial	7	—	7	—	—	7
TOTAL	135	27	62	7	93	162

ABSTRACT of CONVICTIONS before the MAGISTRATES.

1857.

OFFENCES.	Natives.	Africans.	Seamen.	Soldiers.	TOTAL.
Drunk, disorderly, &c.	105	15	56	—	176
Assaults	16	1	8	—	25
Embezzlement of cargo	—	—	2	—	2
Refusing seaman's duty	—	—	33	—	33
Petty thefts	20	5	2	—	27
Leaving family chargeable	8	—	—	—	8
Nonpayment, rates and taxes	21	—	—	—	21
Breach of game laws	1	—	—	—	1
Cruelty to animals	1	—	—	—	1
Misconduct as servants	2	—	—	—	2
Vagrants	5	2	—	—	7
Malicious trespass	2	1	—	—	3
Refractory conduct in gaol	—	2	—	1	3
Unlicensed sale of wine	3	—	—	—	3
Unlicensed attorney	1	—	—	—	1
Committed for Trial:—					
Larceny	5	1	—	1	7
Unnatural crime	1	—	1	—	2
Unlawfully stabbing	—	—	1	—	1
TOTAL	191	27	103	2	323

HUD. R. JANISCH.
P. Magistrate.

1857.

ST. HELENA.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of the ESTIMATED REVENUE of the ISLAND of SAINT HELENA for the Year 1857, and the REVENUE received in that Year, as shown by the ACCOUNTS made up from 1st January to 31st December.

HEADS OF RECEIPTS.	Estimated Revenue.	Revenue received.	Decreased Receipts.	Increased Receipts.	Reference to Remarks.
Customs:	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
Imports	7,000 0 0	7,185 0 0	—	185 5 0	
Wharfage	2,150 0 0	3,025 0 3	—	875 0 3	
Tonnage	2,000 0 0	2,591 12 2	—	591 12 2	
Fees	550 0 0	658 10 0	—	108 10 0	
Warehouse Rent	300 0 0	192 2 7	107 17 5	—	
Permits	60 0 0	73 5 0	—	13 5 0	
Water	900 0 0	1,285 14 0	—	385 14 0	
Cranage	40 0 0	133 15 8	—	93 15 8	
	13,000 0 0	15,145 4 8	107 17 5	2,253 2 1	1
Land Sales:					
Commutation of Rents.	—	—	—	—	
Land Revenue:					
Rents of Houses and Lands	1,200 0 0	1,229 9 7	—	29 9 7	
Rents exclusive of Lands.	—	—	—	—	
Auction Duties:					
Per-centage on Sales by Auction	200 0 0	301 7 10	—	101 7 10	2
Licences:					
Wine and Spirit	550 0 0	825 0 0	—	275 0 0	
Coffee and Ginger Beer	65 0 0	41 0 0	24 0 0	—	
Game	35 0 0	55 0 0	—	20 0 0	
Boats	300 0 0	300 0 0	—	—	
Attorneys	15 0 0	10 0 0	5 0 0	—	
Auctioneers	10 0 0	25 0 0	—	15 0 0	
Notaries	5 0 0	5 0 0	—	—	
Billiard Table	20 0 0	—	20 0 0	—	
	1,000 0 0	1,261 0 0	49 0 0	310 0 0	3
Assessed Taxes:					
Carriages, Carts, Horses, &c. &c.	320 0 0	339 0 0	—	19 0 0	
Post Office:					
Postage	300 0 0	127 12 5	172 7 7	—	4
Fines, Forfeitures, and Fees of Courts:					
Judicial	50 0 0	42 8 6	7 11 6	—	
Police	100 0 0	38 12 6	61 7 6	—	
Militia	10 0 0	8 10 0	1 10 0	—	
Fees of Office	15 0 0	26 16 6	—	11 16 6	
Sale of Government Property:					
Medicines	5 0 0	31 13 7	—	26 13 7	
Stores	5 0 0	16 17 6	—	11 17 6	
Landed Property	—	50 0 0	—	50 0 0	
Reimbursements in aid of Expenses, &c.:					
Ration Stoppages from Soldiers in Gaol	30 0 0	15 17 6	14 2 6	—	
Work done in Gaol	10 0 0	27 3 6	—	17 3 6	
Hospital Stoppages	100 0 0	138 7 6	—	38 7 6	
Printing done	10 0 0	—	10 0 0	—	
Miscellaneous Receipts:					
Over Payments recovered	5 0 0	—	5 0 0	—	
Special Receipts:					
Advances on a/c of Board of Trade	—	334 9 0	—	334 9 0	5
Col. Surgeon's Commission Fee on Appointment	—	1 10 0	—	1 10 0	
	16,360 0 0	19,136 0 7	428 16 6	3,204 17 1	
			Deduct Decrease	428 16 6	
(Not including Widows' and Orphans' Fund)			Nett Increase £	2,776 0 7	

Saint Helena Audit Office,
16th January 1858.

R. C. PENNELL,
Auditor.

REMARKS:

1. Customs increased receipts caused by general increase of trade.
2. Increase of sales.
3. Larger number of licences issued.
4. A further sum of 105*l.* 12*s.* 1*d.* payable in England not included in the receipts.
5. Advances are not included in the estimate.

ST. HELENA. 1857.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of the ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE of the ISLAND of SAINT HELENA for the Year 1857, and the ACTUAL EXPENDITURE of the Year as taken from the Accounts made up from 1st January to the 31st December.

HEADS OF EXPENDITURE.	Estimated Expenditure.	Actual Expenditure.	Decrease Expenditure.	Increase Expenditure.	Reference to Remarks.
Civil Establishment:	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
Governor	2,078 0 0	2,080 0 0	—	2 0 0	
Col. Secretary	1,086 15 0	1,095 11 10	—	8 16 10	
Treasurer	565 0 0	418 18 10	146 1 2	—	1
Auditor	163 10 0	162 0 0	1 10 0	—	
Surveyor and Civil Engineer	1,189 14 2	1,218 7 2	—	28 13 0	2
Collector of Customs	1,427 4 2	1,430 9 2	—	3 5 0	
Post Master	130 0 0	130 0 0	—	—	
Judicial Establishment:					
Supreme Court	1,295 0 0	1,157 0 10	137 19 2	—	3
Summary Court	1,180 12 6	1,217 12 8	—	37 0 2	4
Ecclesiastical Establishment	751 1 0	718 9 8	—	3 8 8	
Education ,,	530 0 0	490 0 0	40 0 0	—	5
Medical ,,	898 10 0	1,031 15 4½	—	133 5 4½	6
Gaol ,,	213 18 0	268 11 4	—	54 13 4	7
Militia ,,	405 0 7	623 8 8½	—	218 8 1½	8
Pensions	721 14 7	399 2 6	322 12 1	—	9
Revenue services, exclusive of Establishment	16 0 0	16 19 0	—	0 19 0	
Administration of Justice ,,	80 0 0	74 5 6	5 14 6	—	
Ecclesiastical ,,	—	—	—	—	
Charitable Allowances	—	—	—	—	
Education, exclusive of Establishment	—	—	—	—	
Hospitals ,,	800 0 0	1,199 10 1½	—	399 10 1½	10
Police and Gaols ,,	415 0 0	393 0 4	21 19 8	—	
Rent	49 10 9	49 10 9	—	—	
Transport	—	—	—	—	
Conveyance of Mails	2 10 0	—	2 10 0	—	
Works and Buildings	1,039 11 0	1,332 6 0½	—	292 15 0½	11
Roads, Streets, and Bridges	600 0 0	442 13 3	157 6 9	—	12
Miscellaneous Services	—	—	—	—	
Interest	—	—	—	—	
Drawbacks and refund of Duties	5 0 0	87 19 9	—	82 19 9	
Special Disbursements	140 0 0	3,293 15 8	—	3,153 15 8	13
	15,747 11 9	19,331 8 6	835 13 4	4,419 10 1	
			Deduct Decrease	835 13 4	
(Not including Widows' and Orphans' Fund)			Net Increase £	3,583 16 9	

Saint Helena Audit Office,
16th January 1858.

R. C. PENNELL,
Auditor.

REMARKS:

1. Treasurer's half pay for a portion of the year drawn in England.
2. Half pay of Clerk of Works drawn on his return from leave of absence.
3. Queen's Advocate's half-pay drawn in England.
4. The temporary expense of an extra policeman.
5. The allowance for books and stationery expended in England.
6. Full salary issued to Colonial Surgeon on the confirmation of his appointment from 25th July 1855.
7. Keepers' salary transferred from supreme department to sheriff's.
8. Altering clothing and drill of recruits.
9. Portion of pensions drawn in England.
10. Increase of patients.
11. Drainage works in the town commenced.
12. Roads. The expenditure of the whole sum not found necessary.
13. Special disbursements include remittances made to Agent General, 2,400*l.*; payment to Royal Engineers for enlargement of new Custom House, 384*l.* 18*s.* 8*d.*; advance to Board of Trade, 220*l.*; purchase of Hull of a Slaver, 170*l.* 18*s.*

CAPE.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

No. 29

No. 29.

COPY of DESPATCH from Governor Sir G. GREY to Right Hon. Sir E. B. LYTTON, Bart.

(No. 42.) Cape Town, March 16, 1859.

(Received May 2, 1859.)

SIR,

IN compliance with the standing instructions of your department, I have the honour herewith to transmit the Blue Book for this colony for the year 1857.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. Sir E. B. Lytton, Bart., &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) G. GREY.

NATAL.

NATAL.

No. 30.

No. 30.

COPY of DESPATCH from Lieut.-Governor SCOTT to the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE, M.P.

(No. 66.) Government House, Natal, October 15, 1858.

(Received December 30, 1858.)

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward the Blue Book of the Colony for the past year, 1857. I regret that its transmission should have been delayed until this late period of the year; but I am informed by those on whom its compilation devolves, that, owing to our scattered agricultural population, great difficulty is found in collecting the necessary data, and that the returns made by the various District Officers are frequently imperfect and erroneous, and have to be returned for correction. I trust the arrangements the Colonial Secretary is now making will remove these defects, and also supply fuller and more satisfactory statistics than those hitherto transmitted.

2. Natal is too young in years, and its industrial population too small in number, to obtain at present any such marked yearly progress as largely to change the various annual returns composing the Blue Book; but comparing the present with former years, and estimating the changes shown by the status of the Colony, it will be seen that, both in its revenue and trade, Natal is yearly advancing.

3. The revenue given in the Blue Book is 45,733*l.*, and an increase of 9,636*l.* over that of the previous year is given by the comparative statement. This, however, if uncorrected, would lead to a wrong inference of the progress of the Colony in this respect. The revenue of each year, exhibited in the Blue Books, is swollen by items of account which are not legitimate sources of revenue. The amount of revenue really collected is 40,021*l.*, and this, again, is accidentally increased by a sum of 1,023*l.*, being arrear quitrents for former years, and by a further amount of 3,163*l.* unexpectedly obtained under the head of Fines.

4. When duly corrected, it is found that the revenue of the past year, compared with the previous year, gives an increase of 6,368*l.* only; but this far exceeds the comparative increase of any former year. This augmentation is found chiefly under the heads of

NATAL.

Customs, Transfer Dues, Stamps, and Postage; the Customs alone giving an increase of 4,385*l.*, altogether due to an improved commerce, as will be seen by the following Table, which exhibits the value of the imports and exports for the last three years, and also the tonnage of vessels entered inwards during the same periods.

	1855.	1856.	1857.
Imports - - -	£ 86,551	£ 102,512	£ 184,549
Exports - - -	„ 52,073	" 56,562	„ 82,496
Tonnage - - -	3,696	5,337	8,117

5. The statements of expenditure for 1856 do not appear to me to offer any exceptional features calling for explanation. The expenditure, it will be observed, has fallen within the revenue; but for many years to come the expenditure will keep pace with whatever amount of revenue may be collected. The Colony at present possesses no public buildings, the gaols are scarcely worthy of the name, while the necessity of opening up the country by roads is yearly pressing itself upon our attention. The improvement of the harbour would also annually absorb a large sum, were the Colony in a position to carry on so extensive a work vigorously, and in proportion to the important bearing it has upon the commerce of the country.

6. The most important event of the past year in the history of Natal was the bringing into operation the Charter granted by Her Majesty, by which it was erected into a separate Colony, and had conferred upon it a popular Representative Legislature. Prior to this Charter Natal was designated a district, and bore a certain connexion with the Colony of the Cape of Good Hope, although it possessed a separate Executive and Legislative Council. The former Legislative Council was composed of certain Government officers nominated by the Crown; the present Council is formed of four official nominees, and of twelve members elected by the people. Every person of legal age, except aliens and others usually disqualified, possessing immoveable property of the value of 50*l.*, or who rents any such property of the yearly rental of 10*l.*, is qualified to vote, and is also eligible as a Member of the Council. The Charter makes no exception; the Zulu Kafir, if qualified by property, is, equally with the Dutch Boer and the English colonist, entitled to the privileges of voting and election. The present population of the Colony consists of about 4,000 Europeans, 4,000 Boers, and 130,000 Kafirs. The Boers do not enter warmly into the new form of government; in the northern part of the Colony they almost wholly refrained from voting, and the two members elected for the district of Klip River were returned by very few voices. I doubt whether the Boers will ever largely exercise the privileges conferred. The Kafirs have not yet learned the importance of possessing landed property, and few are qualified to vote. Hitherto their great ambition has been to possess herds of cattle; but the long prevalence of lung sickness and other causes are gradually inducing a change. The most active and prominent of the natives are becoming sensible of the value and importance of other species of property. As a race of people, they are intelligent, great observers, and politicians in connexion with their own customs and form of government, and quick in learning, when they have been induced to enter the schools. A very small advance in the present social position of our native population would give them a numerical superiority of votes over the white inhabitants. At no distant future, therefore, a question involving most interesting considerations is not unlikely to arise in Natal. The mass of the white population will seek its solution, no doubt, in an arbitrary prohibition of electoral rights to the native, and already the expediency of such a measure is not unmooted.

7. I subjoin a list of the Laws passed by the Legislature during its first session.

No. 1. To secure freedom of speech and debates or proceedings in the Legislative Council, and to give summary protection to persons employed in the publication of its papers.

No. 2. For repealing the Local Councils Ordinance.

No. 3. For regulating the dealing in gunpowder.

No. 4. For giving validity to contracts of service made out of the Colony.

No. 5. For applying a sum not exceeding 1,375*l.*, to be charged upon the revenue of the current year, for the conveyance of mails between the Colony of Natal and the Cape of Good Hope.

No. 6. For regulating the taxation on native huts.
No. 7. For making further provision for the service of the year 1857.
No. 8. For imposing a tax on unoccupied lands.
No. 9. For the registration and sale of fire-arms.
No. 10. For the better administration of justice within the Colony of Natal.

The two following Bills were passed by the Council, and reserved by me for the signification of Her Majesty's pleasure.

1. For raising a loan of 100,000*l.*
2. For securing the better protection and peace of the Colony.

8. Of the above-mentioned Laws, Nos. 4. and 8. were disallowed. Nos. 3. and 9., bearing upon the dealing in gunpowder, and the possession and sale of fire-arms, were introduced with the view of checking, as far as possible, the indiscriminate possession of these articles by natives.

9. Prior to the passing of No. 10., for the better administration of justice, there was only one court, presided over by a recorder, with, originally, an appeal to the Supreme Court of the Cape of Good Hope. The changes which from time to time took place in the political relations of this and the Cape Colony had removed this appeal, and there remained only an appeal to Her Majesty in Council. The present Law appoints a chief justice and two puisne judges, and a supreme court and circuit courts. The increase made by this Law in the number of judges may, perhaps, be disproportionate and costly, compared with the number of the population and the amount of legal business; but, otherwise regarded, I consider the changes made as highly beneficial; the administration of the higher branches of the law now holds that dignified position which such institutions should ever have.

10. The Bill for raising a loan of 100,000*l.* was passed with the intention of raising by debentures a sum of money for the construction of public works, and chiefly for the purpose of improving the harbour. It still awaits the final decision of the Imperial Government.

The Bill for securing the better protection and peace of the Colony had reference to the natives; its provisions were restrictive of their liberties, and, compared with the enlightened and philanthropic policy of the present day, it was a retrograde step in legislation. It has received Her Majesty's disallowance.

11. During the first years of the settlement of Natal, the attention of the colonists was directed to whatever might prove profitable. The breeding of cattle and similar pursuits, occupied the chief point of view, and coal, copper, and the possibility of finding gold were not passed over. Experiments on the fitness of the climate and soil for various natural products were made, until Natal obtained the nickname of the "Colony of samples." It has now taken a broader stand, and its true resources can scarcely now appear doubtful.

12. I have personally visited and examined the outcrops of coal found in many parts of the Colony. It is of a very inferior kind; only of very local use, and not likely to prove of any commercial value. The broken geological character of the country in which it is situated seems to me to exclude any hope of its being found except in broken masses or strata, and even, therefore, if it were of better quality, and more accessible than it is, I should not consider it of much importance. I also made an examination of some small workings where copper had been found. This is more valueless than the coal. Indeed, with the exception of the more rugged portions of the Colony on the Drakensberg Mountains, of which little is known, there are few indications of valuable minerals ever being found in the Colony; but this apparent meagreness of Natal in mineral wealth is more than compensated for by its proved fitness for producing valuable staple articles of export.

13. The climate of the Colony is already sufficiently known to require a lengthened description. I may, however, shortly state that it embraces the semi-tropical and the temperate. On the coast the winter scarce shows itself on the evergreen foliage; inland the different seasons are defined and marked; and in the more northern parts of the Colony, and especially near the Drakensberg Mountains, snow yearly covers the ground. The seasons, compared one year with the other, seem to differ much; the rains are, generally speaking, periodical, although less so than in inter-tropical climates, and droughts, such as are common in many other parts of South Africa, are here unknown. It has its hot winds and other drawbacks, from which no climate can be expected to be

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wholly free, but its general healthiness is remarkable. Natal has also another valuable feature, distinguishing it from other South African countries, that of being well watered by numerous streams, which afford facilities for irrigation. The range of natural products is, as might be expected from its varied climate, singularly great, including almost all the fruits and vegetables of Europe, and many of those of the tropics.

14. Among the vegetable productions, the sugar cane is now receiving the greatest attention. Its cultivation is confined to the warmer districts bordering the sea. At an early period, when Natal was first visited by white men, a small species of sugar cane, called "imphy," was grown by the natives, the sweet juice it yielded being considered a luxury; it is apparently indigenous. An enterprising colonist, Mr. Morewood, observing the freedom with which this native sugar-cane grew, was induced to obtain from the Mauritius, I believe, a few plants of the true sugar-cane. This he planted on his farm near the coast, where it grew with remarkable vigour. Anxious to test its saccharine quality, he, by a rude expedient, crushed a portion, and boiling the juice in an ordinary cooking-pot, obtained a large per-centage of sugar, and considering the imperfect means used in its manufacture of excellent quality. Thus stimulated by so successful an experiment, he planted the cane more largely, erected a rough crushing mill, and formed a "batterie" out of soap boilers, and by this means he, in 1852, produced and sold the first sugar manufactured in Natal. Gradually others turned their attention to this product; but as none possessed the large amount of capital required to establish even a small sugar-farm and factory, its cultivation was for some time confined in extent, and scarcely exceeded what might be still considered experiments. Large profits, proportionate to the scale of the quantity of sugar produced, were obtained. This enabled each cultivator yearly to extend his operations; and at the present time, as will be gathered from the returns in the Blue Book, there are fourteen sugar-mills erected, upwards of 1,800 acres of land planted with cane, and an almost equal acreage in preparation. I am unable to state with accuracy the quantity of sugar manufactured in the past year, but it is estimated that in the present year about 600 acres of cane will be crushed, which, calculated at the low rate of one and a half tons per acre, will yield 900 tons of sugar. More capital is now being embarked, and greater skill introduced in the growth and manufacture of this important export. The saccharometer indicates a quality of juice equal to that obtained from the canes of the Mauritius or West Indies, and the yield per acre is equally satisfactory. The first canes were grown on the low flat patches of land only, but recently they have been planted on higher ground, and on the slopes of the hills, and although this season has been unusually dry, they are said to grow as well and be equally as productive in sugar as those on the lower grounds. This is of great importance, since, if need be, it opens up for the cultivation of sugar-cane all the lands bordering the sea coast, from the Tugela to the Umimkulu, a distance of about 120 miles. The coast, from its unindented character, does not, however, offer many facilities for shipment, and at present the sugar is brought to the port by land carriage. The Umzinto Sugar Company's plantation, now being formed, is distant about sixty miles from the port.

15. I have thus slightly sketched the history of the sugar cultivation and its probable future progress, being of opinion that it is one of the resources of the Colony, which, when fully developed and extended, will have an important bearing on its prosperity.

16. A few plantations of coffee have also been formed, and those engaged in its cultivation speak favourably of its prospects. The trees are still young, and further time is necessary to pronounce a decided opinion on the capablities of Natal for this article of export. The small quantity already produced has been declared by competent judges to be of most excellent quality.

17. Arrowroot is also grown and manufactured; at present nearly 400 acres are cultivated for this purpose. Should it prove as profitable as hitherto, I am informed that it will be rapidly extended.

18. Indigo is an indigenous plant, and found in many varieties scattered over a large tract of the Colony. A manufactory was established at Pine Town, situated about 14 miles from the port, but circumstances, wholly unconnected with any question of its manufacture, have hitherto prevented its being made in marketable quantity, or beyond a few favourable samples.

19. Ginger is also cultivated to a limited extent; and, indeed, so far as at present tested, there appears no reasons for doubting that most other minor semi-tropical products will be found suitable for the warm districts bordering the sea-coast of Natal.

20. An important question, the question of labour, naturally connects itself with the cultivation of tropical products, and in this respect Natal is favourably placed. A question of introducing Coolies from India has been raised, and arrangements have so far been made as to obtain the consent of the East India Company to the project, under certain conditions; but I am now disposed to believe that it will never be acted upon. In the Colony itself we have a native population of nigh 130,000, physically strong and intelligent; in both these respects superior to the Coolies of India. The whole of the common labour of the Colony is at present done by the native Zulu, and great numbers are therefore in the daily employ of the white colonists. There is, however, a strong disinclination on the part of the Kafir to labour continuously throughout the year; even with domestic servants it is the practice, after six or eight months' service, to return to their kraals, and then again, after a short interval, return to service for another period. This practice gives a degree of uncertainty to their labour; but can it be expected that a people, who, until, comparatively speaking, a very recent date, dwelt in almost entire idleness, should at once change their habits, and become as steady in their labour as those who have laboured from childhood and from necessity? Every year a change is perceptible in the Kafir; greater numbers come forth to seek labour; a strong love of money now obtains amongst them; and when it is considered that the native population exceeds one hundred and thirty thousand, there is in my mind little doubt that Natal has within itself an amount of invaluable labour, which, if dealt with judiciously, will in progress of time be all-sufficient for the full development of every resource of the Colony. During a late visit I made to the greater part of the sugar estates, I found the Kafirs were voluntarily seeking for employment thereon, and that numbers were continually refused; in short, it is now evident, and acknowledged by the colonists generally, that everything depends upon the employer himself. If skilful in the management of the Kafir, he can obtain any amount of labourers; but if, on the other hand, he acquires, as is not uncommon, a bad name amongst the natives, they cannot be induced to enter his service. The character of each master is soon known, and spread from Kafir to Kafir until it is known to all.

21. Amongst the other vegetable products for which the climate of this Colony seems adapted, I must not overlook cotton. It has been grown occasionally in small patches by different individuals and in various localities, almost since the first settlement of the Colony, and a few years back a company began to enter upon its cultivation largely; but unfortunately the firm having become bankrupt, from other causes, however, it was abandoned. In all cases the cotton plant has been found to thrive well; that which is an annual elsewhere here becomes apparently perennial, and the staple is pronounced to be good. I am now making arrangements for obtaining its cultivation amongst the natives. There are many difficulties to be overcome in this experiment; but any scheme pointing at such great advantages as would result from this Colony becoming, through the instrumentality of its numerous natives, a cotton-growing country, and free from the blot of slavery, merits every exertion.

22. The remarks I have made above on the products of Natal likely to form staple articles of export have reference chiefly to the lower and warmer districts of the Colony; the northern parts are not so marked in progress, but the ultimate part which this portion will take seems to assume a more fixed aspect. It is chiefly inhabited by Boers, whose ambition was to possess farms of vast size, and pasture large herds of horned cattle, the cultivation of the soil beyond their own immediate wants being of secondary importance. The Colony, from its absence of forest, and its boundless tracts of grass-covered surface, was well suited for grazing purposes, and large herds of horned cattle, owned by the Boer, the Kafir, and by many colonists, roamed and fattened, with little attention required from the owners. These vast droves have now become much reduced in number by the prevalence of a malady called lung sickness, and which still exists, though in a subdued form. This has undoubtedly been a calamity falling heavily upon individuals, but in its general bearing upon the Colony it will most probably prove beneficial. It has undoubtedly been the means of rousing the attention of those who might otherwise have remained indolent graziers to the value of other agricultural pursuits; and it has not been without value also upon the native tribes, by modifying their inveterate love of cattle, and giving a taste for other kind of riches.

23. The attention of the Boers and other farming colonists is now directed to sheep. Their introduction into the Colony is slow, partly from the difficulty of obtaining them in large numbers from the Orange Free State, but chiefly from the want of capitalists amongst the farmers. The reports made to me by the different Resident Magistrates of Counties on the progress of sheep farming are very satisfactory. The rankness of the grass, which was considered as likely to prove an insuperable obstacle to this country

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becoming a wool-producing colony, does not appear so detrimental as was anticipated; and it is found by grazing that the grass changes, and becomes gradually more suited to sheep. There appears, therefore, every reason to expect that the northern portions of Natal may ultimately yield large quantities of wool, an export as valuable as that of sugar and the other products which promise to be the staple exports of the lower districts. By the agricultural returns of the Blue Book it appears that in 1855 there were about 10,000 sheep, in 1856, 18,000, and in the past year 37,000; but these returns are in no respect reliable.

24. As amongst the resources open to the inland portion of the Colony, I may also mention the breeding of horses. These command a high price in the Mauritius and India, and are now being much improved by the recent introduction into the Colony of superior breeds.

25. The climate and soil are also well suited for the cultivation of most farming products. Wheat and other cereals may be grown to any desirable extent. Wheat is somewhat subject to "rust," but this, I am informed, is due chiefly, if not entirely, to the uncultivated condition of the soil, and therefore no serious drawback. Oats, now grown solely for food for horses, are so rapid in their growth that three crops on the same ground within one year are commonly and readily obtained. Hemp is indigenous, and might, as well as flax, be cultivated to any extent.

26. I have in this Report entered more fully into agricultural details than is perhaps usual in the Reports accompanying the Blue Books of Colonies; but as much speculation has frequently been indulged in with regard to the real capabilities of Natal, I have thought my First Report on the Colony would not be an inappropriate occasion to exhibit under one view what may now more conclusively than hitherto be considered the actual and prospective resources of the Colony, although in doing this I have necessarily touched upon what has already in other communications to Her Majesty's Government been spoken of.

I am, &c.

The Right Hon. Sir E. B. Lytton, Bart. (Signed) J. SCOTT

&c. &c. &c.

PART IV.

AUSTRALIAN COLONIES AND NEW ZEALAND.

PART IV.—AUSTRALIAN COLONIES AND NEW ZEALAND.

New South Wales.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

No. 31.

No. 31.

Copy of DESPATCH from Governor Sir W. Denison to the Right Hon. Sir E. Bulwer Lytton, Bart.

(No. 139.)

Government House, Sydney,
September 30, 1858.
(Received December 20, 1858.)

Sir,

I have the honour to forward herewith the Blue Book for the year 1857. The returns comprised in this book increase in bulk annually; and I would again submit to Her Majesty's Government the propriety of omitting from the Blue Books of the different Colonies which are placed under a system of responsible government the nominal list of officers composing what is termed the Civil Establishment of the Colony, which occupies upwards of 200 pages of the book, and occupies very unnecessarily the time of the clerks employed upon the work. I say very unnecessarily, for as the appointment to all the situations of emolument under Government is now transferred to the local Government, the changes of office or of emolument cannot be of sufficient interest at home to justify the employment of so much clerical labour in preparing these returns.

2. I trust to be able to place for the future the preparation of the Blue Book in the hands of the Registrar General; and I have every reason to hope that the result will be a great increase in the accuracy and value of the returns submitted, and a gradual amalgamation of them, so as to bring in a tabular state before the Government, not only facts, but the relation which these facts have to each other.

3. I propose in my comments and remarks upon the contents of this book to begin, as I did last year, with the population returns. In page 807 will be found an estimate of the population on the 31st December 1857, deduced from the census returns of 1856, by adding to the number therein shown the increase from births and immigration, and deducting the decrease from deaths and emigration. The result gives as the population of New South Wales on the 31st December 1857, 305,487, showing a net increase in the course of the year of 18,614, or 6·48 per cent.

4. On reference to the Comparative Statement of Revenue, page 126 et seq., it will be seen that the total receipts for the year, exclusive of money borrowed for public works, exceed those of 1856 by 54,826*l.*, or about 4·8 per cent., an increase less than that which is fairly due to the augmentation of the population. No fair deduction, however, can be made from a comparison of totals. If we refer to the revenue derived from the Customs we shall find that there is under this head an increase of 61,703*l.*, or about 13 per cent., while the produce of the duty upon spirits distilled in the Colony has increased from 51,074*l.* to 63,477*l.*, or 24 per cent. The Customs revenue, which is raised upon articles, many of which, as spirits, beer, tobacco, may be considered articles of luxury, is a fair test of the prosperity of the people; and as we find that this has increased in a ratio double that of the addition made to the population, it is a fair inference that the means at the disposal of the population for the purchase of dutiable articles have been in excess of what they were during the previous year. The revenue derived from postage is, perhaps, another fair test of the progress of the people; and we find that the increase during the year 1857 has been at the rate of 23 per cent. on the revenue from this source in 1856.

5. The falling off in the land revenue I attribute to local and temporary causes, similar to those to which I alluded in my despatch last year. The Government not having been able to settle definitively the many questions relative to the purchase and rental of land, those who have no immediate or special object which may induce them to purchase land are contented to wait until they see what effect the expected measures of the Government may have upon the price of the article they are desirous of purchasing.

6. Upon reference to the Comparative Yearly Statement of Expenditure for the years 1856 and 1857, at pages 136 et seq., it will be seen that, exclusive of the outlay upon works, the cost of which is provided for by loan, the outlay during 1857 falls short of that

of 1856 by 41,470*l.*, or about 3·6 per cent. There has been a general decrease in the establishments, but more especially in the expenditure on account of the police and the Crown lands. Comparing the receipts of 1857 with the expenditure during the same period there would appear to be an available balance of 73,714*l.*, which has been applied to diminish the deficit of former years. The money borrowed during 1857 must not be taken as the measure of the absolute progress of the public works of the Colony. These, especially the railways, have been progressing steadily, though, owing to the pressure on the money market during the early part of the year, it was not considered desirable to press colonial securities upon a falling market. The line to the southward from Sydney has been extended, while that to the northward from Newcastle has been perfected, and preparations have been made to push extensions simultaneously to the southward, westward, and northward.

In a country like New South Wales, over which, as the population is scantily sprinkled, the lines of communication must extend to a great length, it is evident that these should combine as far as possible these three elements,—cheapness of construction, cheapness of maintenance, and easiness and consequent cheapness of transport. Of these three elements the railway combines the two latter, and with proper care and management the cost of construction need not be so enhanced as to require in the shape of interest upon the capital expended so large a sum as to press unduly upon the charges for transport. The cost of maintaining a turnpike road in any decent state of repair in this country, owing to the absence of proper material and the high rate of wages, is very great, and the cost of transporting produce and stores upon such a road, were it in its best state, is such as to render the transport of the bulkier descriptions of produce for any distance so unprofitable as to be a practical impossibility. By the construction of cheap railways, to be worked, until the traffic increases largely, by horse power, not only would the settlers have every facility which they would require afforded them, but, as the present charge for transport averages 2*s.* per ton per mile, and the railway charge would not exceed 6*d.* per ton per mile, 75 per cent. of the amount now expended unproductively upon the transport of produce and stores would be left in the pockets of producers, to be expended productively.

7. On the subject of education I have nothing to add to what I remarked last year. No steps have as yet been taken to introduce a general scheme, the want of which is felt more and more every day by those who look forward to the future of the Colony as dependent in great measure upon the character and intelligence of the inhabitants. I trust, however, before long, to be able to make a more satisfactory report upon this subject.

8. The agricultural returns are, as I have said, not to be implicitly depended on. They may be trusted, however, in comparisons of one year with another; but it would be unwise to speculate upon the probable amount of wheat or flour required from the data shown in the tables. It would seem that during the last year there has been a reduction in the quantity of land sown with wheat to the extent of 17,929 acres, or nearly 17 per cent., while there has been a falling off in the crop to the extent of 468,000 bushels, or 26 per cent., showing the effect of the season upon the crop, which did not exceed 14¼ bushels to the acre. There has been an increase in the quantity of land under maize to the extent of 10,810 acres, or 33 per cent., while the crop has not increased more than 3 per cent. This was due to the heavy floods which swept over the low land planted with maize, destroying much of the early crop. There is a tendency in all the districts to the north of Sydney to substitute maize for wheat, as being a more productive crop; but should the means of railway communication be opened into the interior much of the high land to the north as well as the south will become available for the growth of wheat, and the Colony may then become independent of other countries for its supplies of bread.

9. The return of live stock in page 816 shows a full average increase in horses, cattle, and sheep. On reference, however, to the revenue derived from the assessment on stock, it would seem that there has been a falling off in the amount received from cattle of about ½ per cent., and from sheep of 4½ per cent. I am not in a position to account for this discrepancy. Whether, however, the returns of the quantity of sheep and cattle in the table are to be depended on, or whether the inference from the falling off in the assessment be correct, one fact is clear, that if the increase in the population continues to be so far in advance of the increase of stock, a time must come when the question of the amount of the supply of animal food will cause much embarrassment. It must not be forgotten that in discussing this question the two Colonies of New South Wales and Victoria must be considered together. The increase of population is far more rapid in the latter Colony than in the former; and, owing to local circumstances, the increase of stock is, I believe, there far

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less than in New South Wales. On reference to the Report of the Registrar General of Victoria, I find it therein stated that at the end of March 1858 there were in that Colony 614,537 head of cattle and 4,766,022 sheep, and that the increase over the returns for 1856 was 80,424 cattle and 188,150 sheep. The increase of cattle would appear to be very large, being 13 per cent. in fifteen months; but this is accounted for by a remark, that a portion of these were supplied from New South Wales. The quantity of sheep is stated to be far less than it was in 1851, proving that as men increase the demand for animal food and for occupation of land for other than pastoral purposes must necessarily reduce the amount of stock of that description. From the returns of both the Colonies it would appear that there were in all, at the beginning of 1858, 2,763,201 head of cattle, 12,905,184 sheep, to supply food to a population of 775,124 souls. Now, cattle may be killed off at the rate of about one in six annually, allowing for an increase to the extent of six per cent.; in the same way a similar proportion of the sheep may be handed over to the butcher, and yet allow of an increase of five per cent.

At present, then, 460,533 head of cattle may be slaughtered, and yet the number would increase, notwithstanding, to the extent of 165,792, and out of 12,905,184 sheep 2,150,864 may be killed, and yet an addition would be made to the flock to the extent of 645,259. Now, 460,533 cattle, at an average weight of 600 lbs., will yield 276,319,800 lbs. of meat, and 2,150,864 sheep, at an average rate of 50 lbs., will yield 107,543,200 lbs., making a total of 383,860,000 lbs. to feed 775,124 people during a year, which will give somewhat less than 500 lbs., or about 9½ lbs. for each individual per week, the ordinary ration allowed to labouring men ranging from 10 to 12 lbs. per week. The supply, then, of animal food is sufficient for the existing population. If, however, the increase of sheep and cattle be compared with the increase of population, it will be found that there is some cause for apprehending such a deficiency as will render compulsory some change in the habits of the people. It has been assumed that the increase of cattle is six per cent. and that of sheep five per cent. At this rate the increase in the present year will be 165,792 cattle and 645,259 sheep. Of these one sixth will be available for food, and at the weights before stated will produce 21,956,350 lbs. of meat, or animal food sufficient for 44,000 people. An examination of the population returns of New South Wales and Victoria will show that in 1857 there was an addition to the population of the former Colony of 18,614, and to that of the latter of 58,871, making a total addition to the mouths to be fed of 77,485. If the same amount of increase continues throughout the present year, which I think probable, one of two things must happen; either a smaller quantity of animal food must be consumed by each individual, or more than the proportion before stated of cattle and sheep must be slaughtered, in which case the annual increase will be lessened, and the supply for future years rendered more precarious.

I have in the calculation shown above been careful not to overstate the case. A reference to the statistics in page 816 of the Blue Book will show that the increase of cattle and sheep in each of the years from 1848 to 1857 has been as stated in the table below:

—	CATTLE.	SHEEP.
1848 } 1849 }	Increase 7 per cent. - -	— 3·9 per cent.
1849 } 1850 }	Decrease 6 „ - -	— 4·5 „
1850 } 1851 }	Neither increase nor decrease -	— 4·2 „
1851 } 1852 }	Increase 8·7 per cent. -	— 4·2 „
1852 } 1853 }	„ 3·1 „ - -	— 2·8 „
1853 } 1854 }	„ 1·5 „ - -	— 2·6 „
1854 } 1855 }	„ 17·0 „ - -	— 5·6 „
1855 } 1836 }	„ 8·8 „ - -	Decrease 10·0 „
1856 } 1857 }	„ 6·1 „ - -	Increase 5·2 „
	46·2	23·0
Mean increase	5·1	2·5

so that on an average of years it would seem that the increase of cattle, instead of being, as I have assumed at 6 per cent., is in fact only 5·1 per cent., while that of sheep, instead being 5 per cent., is only 2·5. I may also observe, that the principal part of the land which is available for pasturage purposes in its natural state is already occupied and fully stocked; I mean of the land within reach of the markets of Sydney or Melbourne. The country to the northward of Moreton Bay, hitherto unoccupied, is too far distant from these markets to admit of any dependence being placed upon it for a supply of animal food.

The increase of price consequent upon the increased demand for meat may, probably, after a time, induce the adoption of measures by the settlers to increase the amount of food for stock of various kinds; but this cannot be done at once, neither will this addition to the grazing capabilities of the Colony have any very direct action in accelerating the rate of increase of stock. Should the price of meat rise much it may probably induce some of the settlers to substitute cattle for sheep on land which is fit for either of the two descriptions of stock; but as the profit accruing from sheep is at present far greater than that from cattle, the rise of price must be excessive to induce this change. I have gone at some length into the discussion of this question, which I consider to be one of special importance to the Colony. It has an incidental bearing upon the interests of the manufacturing population at home, as the probable result will be a diminution in the shipment of wool.

10. On reference to the statistical tables at the latter end of the book, it will be seen that an improvement has been made in the form and arrangement of the tables of imports and exports, which now show, not only the actual quantities and value of the different articles, but the country from which they are brought and to which they are sent. The tables show an increase of 23 per cent. in the value of imports and of 17 per cent. in that of the exports, the total value of the former being 6,729,405*l.* and of the latter 4,011,952*l.* This increase has taken place principally in the trade with the mother country, the tonnage from which has increased at the rate of 29 per cent. and the number of vessels at the rate of 24 per cent.

It would require a close analysis of the tables of imports and exports for different years to enable me to draw any correct inferences from them as to the relation between the facts exhibited and the manners and customs of the people, and I will not, therefore, attempt to do so. There is, however, one return to which I wish to draw your attention, namely, to that in page 879, of the number of convictions. It would seem from this that there has been a decrease in the number of convictions for felony of not less than 66, or upwards of 18 per cent.

I am, &c.

The Right Hon. Sir E. B. Lytton, Bart. (Signed) W. DENISON.
&c. &c. &c.

VICTORIA.

No. 32.

Copy of DESPATCH from Governor Sir Henry Barkly, K.C.B., to the Right Hon. Sir E. Bulwer Lytton, Bart.

(No. 31.) Government Offices, Melbourne, March 31, 1859.

Sir, (Received June 11, 1859.)

The great delay which has occurred in furnishing the accompanying Blue Book Returns for 1857 will, I trust, not prove of much consequence, owing to the detailed "Report on the Progress and Statistics of the Colony from 1851 to 1858," published by Major Campbell as Registrar General at the time of the passing of the Railway Loan Act.

2. This delay, no doubt, is in part attributable to that gentleman's subsequent protracted illness and lamented decease, but chiefly to the late period at which the balance sheet to 31st December 1857, which it was thought desirable to include, was finally audited, together with the pressure of other work in the Government Printing Office, whence the Blue Book now emanates in the same form as other Parliamentary papers.

3. Whatever the cause, lengthened comment on these returns would at this distance of time be superfluous, especially as Mr. Archer, late the Assistant-Registrar, who has succeeded as Registrar-General, (his former office being abolished,) assures me that the Blue Book for 1858 is ready for the printer, and I thus shall have a better opportunity very soon of instituting more extended comparisons.

4. I shall confine my present remarks, therefore, mainly to an elucidation of the special circumstances of the year 1857 through the figures presented, avoiding most of the general questions which were discussed in my Report with the Statistics of 1856.

5. The great prosperity which attended all industrial pursuits in this colony in that year gave an undue stimulus to commerce in the early part of the following one, and this must in any event have led to reaction.

6. The importations, which were valued at under fifteen millions sterling in 1856, rose over seventeen millions and a quarter in 1857, whilst the value of articles exported fell four hundred thousand pounds, barely exceeding fifteen millions. In respect to wool, hides, tallow, &c., the rise of prices at home so far compensated reduced quantities, but there was besides a considerable decrease in the production of gold, not susceptible of being thus counterbalanced.

7. In such a state of affairs the commercial crisis which was felt with such fearful intensity in the United States and throughout Europe in the autumn of 1857 might have been expected to prove most disastrous here, but it had scarce time to extend to Australia ere the close of the year, nor when it came were its effects very serious.

8. Still they were clearly manifest. The number and gross amount of insolvencies were in the two years respectively,—

1856	193	£ 646,544
1857	237	£ 967,907

and in the first months of 1858 the ratio of increase was even larger. The banks, who had so far gone with the tide that the debts of all kinds due to them had risen from 6,600,000*l.* on 31st December 1856 to 8,200,000*l.* on 30th September 1857, began to restrict their accommodation, and had wiped off 75,000*l.* by the end of the year; their note circulation, after an augmentation not justified by any increase in their stock of bullion, nor indeed by the deposits they held, which remained stationary at 6,000,000*l.*, standing at 50,000*l.* less than at the close of 1856.

9. Even this partial disturbance of trade was attended with a good deal of distress among the working classes, aggravated as it was by the slackness of mining operations on the gold fields from a dry season; and as immigration, both unassisted and at the public expense, was going on freely, many labourers could not obtain work, and an outcry was at length raised by the unemployed in the metropolis, which attracted the special interposition of the Government, as reported at the time.

10. The customs duties too indicated decreased power of consumption in the masses, having fallen from 1,658,868*l.* in 1856 to 1,583,649*l.* in 1857; but this decline would scarcely lead to the supposition of serious deterioration in the circumstances of the settled population; and I am happy to add, that the savings bank returns show that the more intelligent and thrifty continued to do well, the number of depositors having increased from 2,620 to 5,682, and the amount of deposits from 245,923*l.* to 374,868*l.*

11. Other branches of revenue as well as the customs likewise declined in 1857, but any serious deficit was averted by the continuance of a brisk demand for the public lands, of which a larger quantity was sold and at higher prices than in the preceding year, half a million acres being purchased at an average of over two guineas per acre.

12. On the other hand, the expenditure had been fortunately so materially reduced that with a revenue of but 3,234,074*l.* instead of 3,369,256*l.*, as in the preceding year, the Government was able to meet temporarily an outlay of upwards of 600,000*l.* on the Williamstown and Mount Alexander Railway, reducing the cash balance in the treasury merely from 584,480*l.* to 480,360*l.*

13. On the social progress of the colony during the year in question I shall not write much. Of crime I am sorry to say there was a great increase in all its grades. The capital executions rose from 1 to 15; an increase, however, mainly referable to the terrible expiation which it was necessary to exact for the murder of Mr. Price, the Inspector-General, by the convicts under his charge. The number of convictions in the Supreme Court rose from 272 to 425; offences against the person, as well as against property, and misdemeanors, all increasing. The commitments to the various gaols in like manner were 2,481 to 2,112 in the previous year, whilst the number remaining in confinement was 1,962, against 1,910 at the close of each respectively.

14. It is difficult to account for a sudden access of criminality like this. Distress may have had something to do with it; the convict outbreaks, and the misplaced sympathy

which for a time they excited, possibly more; by some the greater extension given to the ticket-of-leave system is considered the cause, though this is negatived by returns called for by the Chief Secretary, which show that out of 430 ticket-of-leave holders released in the year only twenty-nine were re-convicted. These returns, of which I enclose a copy, furnish a better clue, however, I think, in the large number of discharges which had taken place for the two or three years preceding, many of them no doubt through the effluxion of the sentences of the hardened ruffians, generally escaped convicts from Van Diemen's Land, convicted in the early days of the gold fields, when the law was first able to vindicate its supremacy; and this is a cause likely to operate for some years to come.

15. The other statistics of social progress will be found more complete than have heretofore been given, and satisfactory in regard to the future. The census taken during the year showed the population to be larger than had been estimated, and the additions subsequently brought it up to 463,135 souls at the close. The religious and educational provision fortunately kept pace with this increase. The churches and chapels returned rose from 473 to 587, with accommodation for 120,932 persons. The schools under the Denominational Board were augmented from 368 to 439, under the National from 87 to 101; the private schools, now first included, numbering 135. The total of children attending the whole was 36,671, or upwards of 10,000 more than were returned in 1856.

16. Agriculture, it will be seen from the comparative statement of cultivation and crops, continued to make rapid progress. I will not attempt an analysis myself, but add a copy of the same returns as laid before Parliament in a more detailed form, prefaced by a very interesting report from the late Registrar-General. I append, likewise, a further return as to the importation of live stock, because it may be well to point out that the encouraging view taken by Major Campbell of the supply is not shared by some; Sir William Denison, among others, being of opinion that the consumption of this colony so far exceeds its own production as to threaten to drain the markets of New South Wales and South Australia to such an extent as to threaten a scarcity of butcher's meat at no very distant period. The remedy, however, will probably be found in the extended cultivation of green crops, with a view to breeding and feeding cattle on a larger scale in Victoria.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY BARKLY.

The Right Hon. Sir E. B. Lytton, Bart.,
&c. &c. &c.

TASMANIA.

No. 33.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir HENRY YOUNG to the Right Hon. HENRY LABOUCHERE.

(No. 24.) Government House, Hobart Town,
March 9, 1858.

SIR, (Received, May 12, 1858.)

I HAVE the honour to transmit the Annual Report for 1857, which is usually accompanied by the Blue Book; this latter, however, will I apprehend not reach me from the Colonial Secretary's Department in time to be despatched by this mail.

2. The population on March 31, 1857, was 81,492; the births, 3,246; the deaths 1,420; the marriages, 897; and the immigration, 2,512 souls. The population at this date may be taken, I think, to be not less than 84,000 souls. The number of schools aided by Government in 1857 was 73, with 2,171 boys, 1,560 girls. The Supreme Court civil cases were 52 in number, the criminal cases 82, the executions 9, of whom 3 were convicts, and 6 were convicts free by servitude.

	£	s.	d.
3. The Revenue in 1857 was - - -	272,908	19	10
The Debentures in aid - - -	32,000	0	0
The total revenue - - - -	304,908	19	10
The total expenditure - - -	294,979	8	2
The expenditure for immigration was - -	31,283	0	0
The expenditure for education - -	9,987	0	0

TASMANIA. The five banks in Tasmania had an aggregate of 2,019,873*l.* assets, and 1,365,894*l.* liabilities. The total coin in the Colony in 1857 was 521,211*l.* The insolvencies were 140; the assets being 50,997*l.*, the liabilities 71,894*l.* The mortgages on land in 1857 were 190,009*l.* The imports were 1,271,087*l.* The exports 1,354,651*l.* The debt of the Colony, now bearing interest at the present time, is 223,680*l.*; and 45,000*l.* more of debentures are authorized, but not yet issued.

4. The financial condition of the Colony at present, and for some time past, is so fully set forth in the exposition of the Budget for 1858 by the Colonial Treasurer, Mr. F. M. Innes, that I insert it here as explanatory of the measures that have been adopted
Enclosure 1. to improve the Public Finance, and to make the incidence of Taxation more equal than has hitherto been the case.

Survey Department.

5. The lands sold in 1857 consisted of 1,943 acres of pastoral land, averaging 1*l.* 16*s.* 10¼*d.* per acre; 5,282 acres of agricultural land, averaging 1*l.* 8*s.* 9¾*d.* per acre; and 2,159 acres of suburban land, averaging 7*l.* 12*s.* 5¾*d.* per acre. The gross sales amounted to 27,658*l.*, exclusively of 7,868*l.* 16*s.* 8*d.* for Hobart Town Wharf Allotments, site of the old Gaol, and an allotment including a building once intended for a normal school at New Town. The lands surveyed in 1857 comprised 35,507 acres pastoral; 30,521 acres agricultural; 625 township and 622 suburban lots.

Mr. James Sprent, whose labours on the trigonometrical survey of the Island were highly esteemed by my predecessor Governor-General Sir William Denison, was promoted to be Surveyor-General of Tasmania in 1857; and a new map of the Colony was completed under his directions for publication, and presented to me in that year, and of it I subjoin the following account from the Surveyor-General himself:—

" For some time past a new map has been much required. The one hitherto in use " bears date in 1839, was published by Mr. Cross, and the manuscript was furnished by " Surveyor-General Frankland. It was an improvement upon any map of a prior date. " It however contained many errors, and its materials were unavoidably scanty and " unconnected. In 1847 a trigonometrical survey of the Island was commenced under " Deputy Surveyor-General Major Cotton, and Mr. James Sprent, the present Surveyor- " General, was placed upon the field work of the operation. The survey commenced at " a base on the south side of the Island, and was measured three times. The first " measurement was merely a trial for the sake of approximating the length and gaining " a knowledge of the manipulation of the rods. The two latter measurements were made " with every care, and the two results gave the most satisfactory determinations, the " two measurements only differing 1⅓ inches from each other.

" A base of verification was measured at Norfolk Plains, at a distance on the north " side of the Island, of some 100 miles from the base on the south. The base on the " south was nearly four miles, and the base on the north nearly five miles in length. " The northern base was measured twice with the same means as that on the south, " and the two measurements differed 3½ inches.

" These bases were measured by deal rods, which were constructed under Major " Cotton's direction, and according to his own plans. They ' were,' to use his own " words, ' of old Baltic fir, about fifteen feet long and two inches square; they were " ' saturated with boiling oil, and varnished, rolled in flannel, and packed in sawdust in " ' coffers of six inches square, closed at the end, but leaving the rods free to contract or " ' expand. The rods were supported centrically in the coffers by means of blocks of " ' wood; the coffers, aided by these blocks, serving to truss the rods. To the ends of " ' the rods were attached brass caps, rising to the level of the surface of the coffers, and " ' bearing upon their upper surface the scales by means of which their lengths were " ' determined.' The rods were measured by Troughton's four-foot steel scale, the " extreme accuracy of which is well known. These rods were frequently measured " during the operation, but did not exhibit any change, other than might arise from the " manipulation. They appeared to remain constant in length. At work, these rods " were placed upon tressels, and brought into the hypothenusal line in the usual manner; " it required three rods to carry on the work consecutively. The hypothenusal distances " were reduced to the base by the use of the spirit level, and the residual quantity " reduced to the figure of the earth in the usual manner. The instrument used in taking " the angles was Troughton's 12-inch altitude and azimuth circle, the latter graduated " to 10″, and the former was read by a micrometer to 2″, and the instrument was " placed on a repeating stand, so that the horizontal angles might be taken upon that " principle.

"The triangles were formed connecting the two bases, and calculations were made "from the angles formed by the sides of these triangles, and the base of verification was "determined. The base of verification was found by actual measurement and reduction "to the level of the sea to be 25·745·7 feet, and the computed length to be 25·746·0 "—·3 or about 3½ inches. The instruments were decidedly good of their kind, but not "of course possessing the perfection of construction or minuteness of division of those "used in the great surveys of Europe, India, and America.

"These triangles were extended in every direction, and now cover the whole of the "Island, and a skeleton map has been constructed upon the calculated lengths, showing "the position of the stations both as regards the geodetic and geographical character. "The triangulation is shown in its full extent, and can be used as a whole for a general "map or as detail for parts, such as for country maps, and even smaller local surveys.

"The general map was constructed upon this skeleton on a larger scale, viz. five inches "to one inch. Country maps will shortly be taken in hand upon a scale of one inch to "the mile for office purposes and for general information.

"The triangulation was laid down by true bearings determined astronomically, and "by co-ordinates calculated to a certain meridian. They were tested by the geodetic "lengths from station to station. The work was found satisfactory, and bore most "favourably the tests usually adopted in the plotting. By these means the capes and "headlands, as well as the prominent rocks on the coast, were most correctly laid down, "and the interior filled up with fixed points. The intervals between these fixed points "have been filled up with the materials long accumulating in the department, and a "large amount of information has been in consequence brought to light by the new "construction.

"The coast line has been measured by the chain from Arthur's River northerly to "the north-west angle of the Island, and thence along the north coast to Cape Portland, "thence along the east coast, including all the bays, &c. down to South-east Cape. "The rest of the coast has been taken from nautical authorities, but the determination "of the geographical positions have been given solely from the trigonometrical survey. "In most cases these chain surveys were confined to parts where they were required for "other purposes.

"The interior of the Island was treated in much the same manner. The rivers and "the roads were connected with the triangles in the settled districts, and placed upon "the map in reference to these, and filled in detail from the chain surveys recorded in "the Office. In the unsettled places on the west side of the Island no chain surveys "have been made, so that the local features are very approximate only. As the chain "survey advances this state of things will be very much improved; and I look forward "to a time, not very far distant, when information regarding unsettled districts will be "much enlarged, and of such a nature as can be faithfully placed upon a map. The "map cannot be looked upon as complete, but rather as one reporting progress; still it "will require some years before the department can furnish another containing much "additional information."

The survey is on a system of work by contract surveyors. The field notes sent with the plan are compared and plotted by the drafting department; compared with contiguous surveys on former occasions, office information of various character, and the personal inspection of the Surveyor-General when any discrepancies occur. The contract surveyors are esteemed by the Surveyor-General to be a respectable body of gentlemen, many of them long employed under the department on engagements different to those which now prevail. Their professional competency and character are well known; and their employment depending on good conduct, they are induced to be careful and faithful. Untried surveyors do not obtain such confidence; their work is more closely tested, and inspection on the ground is more required, until their accuracy is established. The Surveyor-General is of opinion that the Road Trustees throughout the Colony have been very assiduous in carrying out their plans, and a large sum of money has been satisfactorily expended. Other roads have been completed for the opening up of new lands. The country on the Gordon River Plains, beyond the Dunrobin Bridge, is about to be offered to private enterprise on favourable terms, the subject of a special Act of the local Parliament. The first occupant of the new country, Mr. W. H. Wells, reported to me recently that his flock of sheep were thriving there.

Coal Fields.

6. In my last Annual Report I entered at some length into the vast extent of the water resources of Tasmania, and the peculiar natural adaptation of the lakes and rivers of this island for irrigation. I now transmit a Report* by Dr. Milligan, the Secretary of the Local Royal Society, on another valuable natural resource of the Island, viz., its coal formations.

* Not printed.

TASMANIA.

Immigration.

7. The introduction of labour in 1857 was promoted at the public expense on the system known as that of the "Bounty Ticket;" and I annex the Reports* of the local agent for the half years ending 30th June and 31st December 1857 respectively. The number introduced was 2,512. It will be observed that the first of these Reports established that the pecuniary loss to Tasmania from re-emigration to Victoria during the last six years cannot have been great, and that the amount obtained from immigrants after arrival, in part repayment of passage money, and the sums paid as deposits for bounty tickets or otherwise, constituted an important contribution from the introducers of labour, and from immigrants themselves, which diminished the whole outlay as borne by the public funds. At the present time there are no public funds available for any fresh influx of population; and the bounty immigrants *en route* are not numerous. The "Highlanders" who arrived in the "Persian" suffered from typhus fever; their case has been already specially reported on to the Society which promoted their migration; and on the whole this supply was not well suited to the superior farm work which is at present required, and the young women need training to be useful country servants; only 90 single females for Hobart Town, and 60 for Launceston, have arrived since July 1857, a number quite inadequate to the demand. The ship "Trade Wind," which has recently arrived, and is now in quarantine, is reported as having on board a large proportion of single young men, thus increasing the already insufficient supply of young single women.

* These Reports are not printed on account of their bulk.

Enclosure 3. Tabular Statement.

The Whale Fishery.

8. In the year 1857 this enterprise has not accomplished as much as was expected; the quantity of oil landed at Hobart Town between the 1st January and 31st December 1857 was 640½ tuns of sperm and 20 tuns of black oil.

The number of British and Colonial fishing vessels in 1857 was 32, with a tonnage of 6,183 tons; and there were six foreigners, of an aggregate tonnage of 2,458 tons.

Black whaling is now said to be of greater importance than sperm whaling, owing to a sudden rise in the price of whalebone.

The ship "Southern Cross," lately added to the list of whalers, is destined for a voyage as far to the south as possible; and the results of the voyage will probably determine a point of great interest in the whaling resources of Tasmania.

Post Office.

9. The state of the post office department in Tasmania remains the same as reported last year, except that by an Act recently passed to amend the law the postage has been raised from fourpence to sixpence per half-ounce for inland letters, being the rate now charged for sea-borne letters, and the postage within the towns of Hobart Town and Launceston is one penny.

Submarine Telegraph to connect Tasmania with Victoria.

10. Annexed is a printed Parliamentary Paper* containing the results of a marine survey by Commander Ross, R.N., of the steamer Victoria, undertaken to determine the lines of soundings. It was found that the most suitable spot for the shore end of the cable near Cape Otway on the Victoria side of Bass's Straits was three quarters of a mile to the eastward of Point Franklin; the depth within 50 yards of the shore was 3½ fathoms. A line of soundings showed the greatest depth to be 55 fathoms about the middle of the Straits; at the north-west end of King's Island no marked unevenness was found, and the entire distance was sand and shells. Victoria Cove, at King's Island, was found to be peculiarly well adapted to be the connecting point between Victoria and Tasmania. The place chosen to take a cable from King's Island to Hunter's Island was on the east side, called Sea Elephant's Bay. From Hunter's Island to Cape Grim in Tasmania the ground was uneven, varying from 6 to 15½ fathoms midway. The distances are given as follows:—

* Not printed.

Cape Otway to Victoria.

Cove, King's Island - - - - - - - -	49 miles.

Victoria Cove to Sea.

Elephant Bay (land line) - - - - - -	18 ,,
Sea Elephant Bay to north-west Bight, Hunter's Island	48 ,,
North-west Bight to South Cove (land line) - -	8 ,,
South Cove to Tasmania - - - - - -	4½ ,,
Total	127½ miles.

The cable is recommended to be 117 miles in length. The first two sections of the cable might readily be laid down from the ship, aided by good boats at the respective landings; the third would require a boat or barge of 12 tons, drawing 4 feet water. On land there is plenty of timber; the clearing would be considerable. The latter portion of the month of December is considered to be the safest time for laying down the cable. The gross payment to be made under contract for the completion of this work is to be 25,000*l.*, as agreed on with Mr. Joseph Oppenheimer for the house of S. A. Meyer and Co., of Manchester.

Convict Department.

11. On the 31st December 1857 the convicts numbered 3,559; viz., 2,793 males and 806 females, of whom 154 females and 856 males were maintained by the Government. In the previous half year the total convicts were 5,421. During the year there were 33 deaths; thus leaving a total number of 1,789, who have either become free by servitude during the year, or obtained conditional pardons; of these 677 were females and 1,112 were males. 13,941 persons of the convict class are supposed to have quitted Tasmania within the last six years. The Legislature at Melbourne provide by law that the Royal Pardon is no protection of liberty to convicts; nevertheless, but few are known to have been apprehended or punished in the Colony of Victoria as emancipists from hence found there in contravention of the local law; therefore, it is fairly to be inferred that this violation of the prerogative has been in the great majority of instances inoperative; although there have been some cases, free from any new offence, in which the local law has been a great grievance to the individual. I have no reason to suppose that the convicts who have left Tasmania by expiry of servitude have made themselves obnoxious to justice elsewhere to an extent, if to any at all, establishing a necessity for the Victoria legislation in contravention of the prerogative on this subject. As respects the internal economy and condition of the Penal Establishment of the Island, I have caused Returns to be made at Port Arthur, from 1854 to 1857, of the aggregate number of days of convict labour in each year, distinguishing the description of work, the amount of work, agricultural produce or material acquired, rate of wages current in and about Hobart Town, and market value of this produce and material, and the value of the convict work, reckoning only two-thirds wages for convicts, except those in separate prison, who are reckoned at only half wages. The following results have been reported to me, in detailed tabular statements, by Mr. Boyd, the present able, successful, and experienced resident Civil Commandant at Port Arthur:—

In 1854 the daily average number of convicts was	720
The total number of days' work was	262,994
The value of the labour	£51,719
The total value of produce and material	£14,109
The daily average number of sick convicts was	14
„ „ in solitary confinement awaiting trial	6

The rate per cent. per annum of mortality on natural deaths was ·0041:—

In 1855 the daily average was	843
„ „ sick	11
„ „ solitary confinement	8
„ „ rate of mortality as above	·0035
The total number of days	307,813
The value of labour	£45,881 18*s.*
„ produce and material	£13,671
In 1856 the daily average was	686
„ „ sick	12
„ „ solitary confinement	8
„ „ rate of mortality as above	·0029
The number of days	250,639
Value of produce and material	16,770
In 1857 the daily average number of convicts	556
The number of days' labour	208,179
The daily average number of sick	14
„ „ in solitary confinement	7
Rate of mortality	·0018
The value of labour	£27,595
„ produce and material	£19,257

The number of prisoners discharged from Port Arthur since 1st January 1854, who have, under sentence, returned and were there on the 4th February 1858, is 152.

TASMANIA.

The total number of days' labour in 1857, viz., 208,179, was distributed in the following manner:—

19,166	days	raising farm produce, feeding and tending pigs, cattle, sheep, and cows.
1,240	„	burning charcoal.
14,816	„	providing fuel.
7,035	„	cutting and splitting timber.
1,140	„	providing lime.
2,200	„	making bricks.
310	„	making tiles.
310	„	making other pottery, glazed pans, &c.
411	„	earnings of schooner conveying stores.
4,589	„	attending the sick.
2,037	„	blacksmiths, vicemen, moulders, founders, engine-fitters, file-cutters.
310	„	boat building.
657	„	bricklayers.
81	„	basket makers.
431	„	bookbinders.
3,285	„	baking.
395	„	shaving and hair cutting.
5,408	„	manning boats.
60	„	broom makers.
930	„	blasting stone.
1,185	„	carpenters.
381	„	cooperage.
1,468	„	cooking.
620	„	clearing land.
722	„	cleaning churches.
277	„	unloading launches.
7,439	„	filling in about harbour and wharf.
620	„	fencing paddocks and gardens.
2,243	„	constructing jetties and wharves.
65	„	feeding watch dogs at Eagle Hawk Neck.
2,753	„	attending public gardens.
1,825	„	herding cattle.
309	„	making and repairing harness.
6,391	„	hand-carting materials.
979	„	blacksmiths' labourers.
2,113	„	carpenters' labourers.
562	days	wheelwrights's labourers.
2,558	„	plasterers, brickmakers.
987	„	navvies.
2,432	„	washing.
366	„	attending to lamps.
620	„	removing sawdust and slabs.
228	„	messengers.
1,450	„	messengers to working parties.
130	„	mat making.
265	„	nail making.
930	„	painting and glazing.
984	„	plastering.
3,430	„	quarrying.
582	„	road making.
3,220	„	on railroad.
150	„	school monitor.
1,245	„	stone breaking.
229	„	assisting storekeeper.
10,956	„	guards.
233	„	shingling buildings.
1,928	„	stone-cutting and masonry.
3,615	„	shoemaking.
143	„	sail making.
5,724	„	signalmen.
17,707	„	servants.
697	„	tin plate working.
125	„	turning.
1,254	„	tailoring.
310	„	handling tools.
1,824	„	water carrying.
9,532	„	wardsmen and scavengers.
954	„	writing assistants.
479	„	wheelwrights.
3,598	„	separate treatment, basket making, oakum picking, tailoring, &c.
5,292	„	sick and exempt from labour.
486	„	received and awaiting classifications.
336	„	discharged.
2,615	„	solitary confinement and awaiting trial.
21,544	„	Sundays, holidays, wet days.
1	„	died from natural causes.

In February 1858 there were 53 voluntary attendants at the Convict School at Port Arthur, of whom 46 can read and write, and 11 of whom learned to do so there. The total number of convicts at Port Arthur who can read and write is 456, of whom 30 were taught in prison. The total number who can read only is 59. The number who can neither read nor write is 80. The nature of the instruction given is reading, writing, arithmetic, individually; and general instruction on history, geography, mechanics, pneumatics, hydraulics, and on miscellaneous subjects, from 6 till 8 o'clock, p.m. In the separate prison instruction is given in reading, writing, and arithmetic. Attendance at the evening school is entirely voluntary, but all are required to attend on Sunday evenings, the Protestants and Roman Catholics occupying different apartments and attending church at different hours under their respective clergymen. One convict is the registrar of the Meteorological Observatory; one is a writer to the Deputy Superintendent. As a rule, public reading is carried on every evening in each dormitory, from 6 to 8 o'clock, and on all occasions of leisure when the prisoners are in the yards. Books are likewise supplied to the out-stations and detached posts, the invalids and sick, the inmates of the separate prison, and some of the lunatics have books issued to them. The officers and constables obtain loans from the library, and all books are exchanged or the loan renewed every Saturday. The

library contains 2,713 volumes; the number read by prisoners and invalids in each of the last three months has exceeded 200 volumes, and about 30 volumes a month are read by the officers.

Military.

12. The total strength of Her Majesty's Forces in Tasmania, comprises 3 field officers, 3 captains, 7 subalterns, 4 staff officers, 26 serjeants, 8 drummers, and 401 rank and file. The men are practised from time to time to the use of the artillery guns at the batteries in Hobart Town; their instructor is paid and the batteries are maintained after construction by the Royal Engineer Department at the cost of the Colony.

I annex a Report and accompanying Returns from the officer commanding the troops on the defences of the Island; and I have to report that there is no intention at present on the part of the local Parliament to provide funds for raising any local force at the Colonial expense. Enclosure 3.

In October 1857, in answer to a communication on the subject from the Major-General commanding the forces in Australia, he was informed that in the event of the Governor-General of India requiring the assistance of every available soldier, all the troops from hence could be available under such an urgent emergency, except the detachment of military regulars at Port Arthur; and that the duty of a military guard at Hobart Town could be supplied by 100 of the pensioners now dispersed throughout the Colony in private occupations being called out to serve on pay under the Mutiny Act.

Ecclesiastical.

13. Colonial endowments, according to a local Parliamentary Return, dated November 1857, have been made in Tasmania to the Church of England, the Church of Scotland, the Church of Rome, and the Wesleyans, in the following aggregate of instances:—

Church of England,	lands in 122	places.
„	Money in 67	„
„	Salaries in 52	„
Church of Scotland,	lands in 22	places.
„	Money in 10	„
„	Salaries in 10	„
Roman Catholics -	lands in 20	places.
„	Money in 4	„
„	Salaries in 4	„
Wesleyans -	lands in 12	places.
„	Money in 2	„
„	Salaries nil.	

The Church of England grants of land are of 10 acres, more or less, to the majority of the chaplaincies, either as glebe, burial ground, site of church, school, or parsonage. 400 acres were granted to St. David's, Hobart Town; 200 acres to St. John's, in the town of Launceston; 33 acres to the Lord Bishop and 300 acres *pro tempore* to the clergyman at Sorell. Money varying in amount from 200*l.* to 500*l.* has been given in aid of subscriptions for parsonages, churches, or chapels. Where there is no parsonage, there is an allowance of house rent. The salaries are: three at 250*l.*, and the other 26 salaries, each 200*l.* per annum. The Lord Bishop has a salary of 800*l.*, house allowance 200*l.*, orage 100*l.* The stipends, allowances, and grants have been made to the Church of Scotland and the Church of Rome in the same proportion. The Roman Catholic Bishop, Dr. Willson, has 400*l.* per annum; house allowance 100*l.*; forage allowance for two horses. The Wesleyan grant of 600*l.* per annum is paid into a Wesleyan Extension Fund, from which deficiencies of stipends on stations with inadequate voluntary support are supplied.

The payments for ecclesiastical purposes chargeable to imperial funds on account of convict services are as follows:—

The Roman Catholic Bishop, Dr. Willson, 54*l.* 15*s.* forage allowance.

Rev. Mr. Ryan, R. C. Chaplain, 200*l.*, and forage for one horse; 75*l.* temporary increase.

Rev. G. Hunter, R. C. Chaplain, 200*l.*; 100*l.* temporary increase; 30*l.* lodging; forage for one horse.

Rev. — MacGuire, R. C. Chaplain, 200*l.* per annum; 100*l.* temporary increase 30*l.* lodging; forage for one horse.

Rev. W. P. Bond, R. C. Chaplain, the same.

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Church of England:

Rev. T. J. Ewing, Queen's Orphan Schools, 150*l.* per annum; 67*l.* 10*s.* temporary increase.

Rev. G. Giles, Port Arthur, 250*l.* per annum; 75*l.* temporary increase.

Rev. J. B. Seaman, Hobart Town, 200*l.* per annum; 100*l.* temporary increase; 50*l.* lodging; forage for one horse.

Rev. G. Eastman, Hobart Town, 200*l.* per annum; 100*l.* temporary increase; 50*l.* lodging.

In 1857 the Lord Bishop, clergy, and laity of the Church of England (the latter being the elected representatives of its several congregations) assembled in the first Diocesan Synod. Its proceedings were satisfactory, orderly, and amicable.

Royal Society.

Enclosure 5.

14. The Report of the Royal Society of Tasmania for 1857 gives information of its proceedings, and may be considered appropriate to be introduced into an annual Report of its state and progress.

Federation.

15. The two houses of the local Parliament, responding to the invitation of the Legislature of Victoria, agreed to a resolution in the month of February last, in reference to the Federal Government of the Australian Colonies, that it is desirable that delegates from the Australian Colonies should assemble in conference, with power to frame a plan of Federation for the approval of their respective Legislatures; and, accordingly, the House of Assembly appointed Dr. Butler, member for Brighton, and Mr. Gibson, member for Devon, to be delegates; and the Legislative Council appointed the Honourable W. Nairn, Esq., member for Meander, to be a delegate in conjunction with the delegates appointed by the House of Assembly. The report of the delegates will be laid before the Parliament at its next session.

Legislation.

16. The first session of the local parliament was ended by prorogation on the 5th June 1857, and its acts were reported in my Despatch, No. 81, of the 9th July 1857, transmitting the annual Blue Book o 1856.

The next session, with Mr. Francis Smith, the Attorney-General, as premier of the ministry, vice Weston resigned (retaining his seat in the Cabinet as before, without salaried office), opened on the 13th October 1857, and continued, with the interval of a month adjournment for the Christmas holidays, until the 25th February 1858, when it was prorogued, after passing 53 Acts. Several subjects were dealt with by the Legislature which are of permanent interest. I would specify more especially the Land Fund Act. It separates the proceeds of the sales and other disposals of public lands from other branches of the Revenue, and declares them to be exclusively applicable to two purposes only, the survey, &c. of the land and the public debt.

The Act to amend the law relating to the election of members of the Parliament of Tasmania, abolishing nominations at public meetings, &c. The amended mode of nomination being that any two electors may, in writing, nominate to the returning officer not exceeding the number to be elected, and publication shall be made thereof; and none but those so nominated shall be eligible for election.

The Property Valuation Act, establishing a uniform valuation of property, according to which all public assessments may be assessed and collected;

The Act providing for the creation of rural municipalities;

The Waste Lands Act in lieu of that of the Imperial Parliament; and

The Act to authorize the gratuitous disposal, upon certain conditions, of certain unsettled waste lands.

In the first mentioned of these Waste Lands Acts it is enacted that the Governor in Council shall have power to make land regulations; that there shall be Commissioners of Crown lands, and a deputy Commissioner; a classification of lands into three classes, viz., town lands, agricultural lands, pastoral lands; any lands may by proclamation be declared to be agricultural lands; the lowest upset price is 10*s.* per acre for land not held, and never held, under grazing licence; and of all other lands the lowest upset price shall be 1*l.* per acre, until the said lands have been exposed for sale at public auction, and, not having been sold, have remained open for sale by private contract for six months, and are unsold; then the upset price may be reduced by the Commissioner. All lands may be sold by auction; town lands must be sold by auction, and not otherwise.

Agricultural lands shall be sold by auction in lots not exceeding 160 acres each. TASMANIA.

Pastoral lands by auction, not exceeding 1,280 acres each. Notice of sale to be published.

Commissioner, prior to notice of sale, is to fix upset price; and if not sold, shall fix a lower or higher upset price, but so that the upset price shall never be lower than the upset price fixed by the Act, plus the cost of survey and grant deed.

Agricultural and pastoral lands may be sold in certain cases by private contract; right may be had of selection and purchase by private contract at upset price, no person selecting more than one lot; the right of selection being restricted, however, to unoccupied lands not advertised for sale.

Payment of purchase money on sale by auction may be on credit, as also on sale by private contract; town lands by annual instalments of one fourth; agricultural or pastoral lands by auction or private contract; the credit shall be by annual instalments of one tenth; failure of payment of any instalment to forfeit land; no credit where price is less than 40*l*. Purchaser cannot transfer until full price be paid. Grants of land may be made for works of public utility, to be forfeited on non-completion of the works, or resumed for the defence of the Colony.

Leases, not exceeding 14 years, of land surveyed or unsurveyed, may be had after notice in Gazette, at a rent not exceeding one pound for every 100 acres, or if not previously occupied, for a rent not exceeding ten shillings for ever 100 acres.

Pastoral lands, not previously occupied, may be leased at 1*l*. per 100 acres. Agricultural or pastoral lands may be had on licence of occupancy, not exceeding 12 months, under certain regulations, also licence to fell timber.

The other Act, to provide for the gratuitous disposal on certain conditions of certain unsettled lands in Tasmania, refers to a tract which comprises about five millions of acres, access to which by land is opened across the Derwent River at Dunrobin Bridge, and the natural shipping places are Port Davey and Macquarie Harbour.

In this great and well-watered tract gratuitous grants in fee may be made of any quantity not less than 50 acres, or more than 640 acres, on condition that the applicant is possessed of capital equal to one pound sterling for every acre; live stock, machinery, implements of agriculture, or sawing timber, to be considered as capital; and that proof is given to the satisfaction of the Commissioner that the applicant desires to settle upon and cultivate the land. The interest under this contract not to be assignable, but appointment may be made of another to take the land in the event of applicant's death.

Gratuitous leases for a term of 10 years at a pepper-corn rent, of land not exceeding 10,000 acres, may be had on the following terms, viz., the land shall be stocked within a year with sheep or cattle in the proportion of 100 sheep or 20 head of cattle to every 1,000 acres.

In order that the very satisfactory work of the most recent Session of the Local Parliament may be clearly placed on record, I subjoin the latest Prorogation Speech; Enclosure 5.
and in closing the present Annual Report, I desire to add that the first three years of my administration have convinced me of the great resources and capabilities of the Island. They require, indeed, only a continued prudent adaptation of those local improvements which modern civilization makes essential to social progress, to entitle Tasmania to become, what nature has fitted her to be, the most attractive of the Australian settlements.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. Henry Labouchere, (Signed) H. E. F. YOUNG.
&c. &c. &c

Enclosure 1 in No. 33.

Encl. 1 in No. 33.

COLONIAL TREASURER'S FINANCIAL STATEMENT, 2nd FEBRUARY 1858.

PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

House of Assembly.—Tuesday.

The House resumed sitting at 7 o'clock p.m.

COMMITTEE OF WAYS AND MEANS.

On the motion of the Colonial Treasurer the House resolved itself into a Committee of Ways and Means.

THE BUDGET.

The Colonial Treasurer rose and said—Sir,—The proper time is arrived to enter into a statement of the present financial situation of the Colony, and it is my desire and the desire of my hon. colleagues that that statement should be as full, clear, and intelligible as it is in my power to make it. We do not labour under any motives for reservation; we wish the facts connected with the financial condition of the

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Colony to be as thoroughly known to every member of the House and to every member of the community as they are to ourselves, and this we apprehend will be the necessary consequence of the statement I have to submit. To make the present financial condition of the Colony intelligible, it will be necessary to take a retrospect of the past; and it will be found that the present financial situation of the Colony is a necessary consequence of the past. At the close of the year 1854 or the beginning of the year 1855, the Colony had to its credit the sum of 76,549*l.* 14*s.* From the Land Fund, after paying the current expenses named in the schedules, amounting to 47,904*l.* 19*s.* 4*d.*, there remained a balance of 55,429*l.*, which added to 76,549*l.* 14*s.*, gives the sum of 131,978*l.* 14*s.* to begin the year 1855 with in aid of the current expenditure. The revenue derived from Customs and Wharfage dues for that year amounted to 161,821*l.* 17*s.* 1*d.*, exceeding the revenue derived from the same sources during the years 1856 and 1857 by, in round numbers, say 30,000*l.* The other revenues for that year derived from sources of a miscellaneous character amounted to 60,000*l.* on an estimate of 90,000*l.* The year 1855 closed, and we find that there remained to the credit of the Colony and available for the year 1856 the sum of 13,167*l.* 0*s.* 5*d.*, and to the credit of the Land Fund the sum of 9,738*l.* 15*s.* 1*d.*, making together a total sum of 22,905*l.* 15*s.* 6*d.* Before the close of the year 1855 there was a marked declension in the amount of revenue derived from Customs duties, and the Governor in his speech to the Council in July 1855 adverted to this falling off; and in November of the same year His Excellency again adverted to the subject, and urged upon the Legislature the necessity of adopting some means to bring up the revenue to the necessary expenditure. The Council however closed its sittings on that occasion without having adopted any means, if we except the passing of a Bill authorizing the raising of 200,000*l.* by debentures, to be applied for immigration purposes; and by a clause in that Bill, in consideration that the sum of 100,000*l.* had been expended from the General Revenue for immigration purposes, the sum of 100,000*l.* was ordered to be appropriated in aid of the General Revenue of the Colony. The year 1856 passed and the year 1857 opened. At the latter part of 1856 Parliament under its present constitution first assembled, and His Excellency in his opening speech adverted to the financial situation of the Colony, and pointed out the necessity of adopting means to bring up the revenue to the expenditure of the country. At a later period my hon. friend, Mr. Chapman, who then held the office I now hold, made his financial statement to the House, and when proceeding to develope the measures he proposed for raising a revenue, he adverted to the deficiency of the previous year, and the Legislature authorized that the sum of 80,000*l.* should be raised by debentures to cover that deficiency. It would thus appear that for two years the expenditure of the Colony was met by loans—bills on posterity: and that no other measures were adopted to raise the revenue of the Colony over the expenditure voted by its Legislatures. I need not now advert to the measures which my hon. friend proposed for raising a revenue to meet the expenditure; it is sufficient for me to state that of those measures a Bill authorizing the raising of 32,000*l.* by debentures alone was sanctioned. It is necessary in the account I have now to submit to the House to commence that account with a statement of the provision made last year to cover the liabilities of the preceding year, namely, the sum of 80,000*l.* to be raised by debentures, to cover those liabilities. It will be in the recollection of this House that those debentures did not sell at par, but realized only 75,812*l.*; then we have to add to this the amount received from the Commissariat for postal services 750*l.*; convict and military publications in the "Gazette," 113*l.* 14*s.* 10*d.*: maintenance of convicts in lunatic asylum, 5,459*l.* 17*s.*; refunded, 9*d.* ration for paupers in hospital, 2,116*l.* 13*s.* 9*d.*; amount still due from Commissariat for convicts in penal establishments, 2,360*l.*; from the governments of New South Wales and Victoria for lighthouses at Kent's Group for 1855 and 1856, 26,000*l.*; which added to the sum of 75,812*l.* raised on debentures, amounts to the sum of 89,212*l.* 5*s.* 8*d.*, to be appropriated in aid of an expenditure of 79,972*l.* 2*s.* The provision thus made left the sum of 9,240*l.* 3*s.* 7*d.* to the credit of the Colony and to cover the arrears of 1856, but of this sum there was the sum of 5,000*l.* due to the British Government, which had not been paid. The Estimates voted in 1857 amounted to 325,399*l.* 14*s.* 5*d.*, and the revenue was estimated at 280,727*l.*, but of this sum 23,000*l.*, being the amount of increased Customs duties, was never collected; this leaves 257,727*l.*, added to which the sum of 32,000*l.*, land debentures, gives the total amount of revenue at 289,727*l.*, to meet an expenditure of 335,399*l.* 14*s.* 5*d.*, thus leaving an excess of expenditure over the revenue of 45,672*l.* 14*s.* 5*d.* The duty now devolves upon me of offering some explanation as to the sums realized and expended. The Customs revenue yielded 23,000*l.* less than was estimated, owing to the amount of 20,000*l.* having never been collected—there was also another sum of 3,000*l.*, estimated to have been received from other sources, but that having also failed, the deduction left a revenue of 257,727*l.* to meet an expenditure of 335,399*l.* 14*s.* 5*d.* The deficiency by the statement in the estimate of 22,000*l.*, but increased by the sum of 23,000*l.*, made the deficiency amount to 45,000*l.* The Customs duties for that year were 125,618*l.* 1*s.* 10*d.* on an estimate of 144,037*l.*, showing a decrease of 18,418*l.* 18*s.* 2*d.*; the lighthouse and harbour dues were 6,026*l.* 8*s.* 9*d.* on an estimate of 6,000*l.*, showing an increase of 1,026*l.* 8*s.* 9*d.*; this, with the sum of 735*l.* 18*s.* 2*d.*, makes a total decrease on the estimates amounting to 23,516*l.* 13*s.* 9*d.* The territorial revenue amounted to 40,937*l.*, but on this there was an increase of 17,558*l.* 17*s.* 1*d.* In rents there was an increase of 63*l.* 16*s.* 10*d.*; licences, increase, 463*l.*; Post Office, 431*l.* 16*s.* 9*d.*; fines and fees, decrease 5,358*l.* 14*s.* 1*d.*; sale of Government property, 1,924*l.* 14*s.* 2*d.*; nterest, decrease, 69*l.* 8*s.* 11*d.*; reimbursements, increase, 112*l.* 10*s.* 1*d.*; miscellaneous receipts, 812*l.* 0*s.* 1*d.*: from electric telegraph, 264*l.* 15*s.* 2*d.*; contribution from Home Government, decrease, 9,653*l.* 9*s.* 8*d.*; New South Wales and Victoria, decrease with respect to lighthouses on Kent's Group, 1,300*l.*; showing a total apparent decrease of 18,771*l.* 9*s.* 10*d.*; but of this sum there was the sum of 10,953*l.* 9*s.* 8*d.* due from the Commissariat and from the Governments of New South Wales and Victoria. The real increase of the revenue amounted to 15,181*l.* 19*s.* 10*d.* It is necessary that one should discriminate the character of the items. The revenue had been brought up principally from the Land Fund, viz.:—Sales, 18,787*l.*; the excess of rental above the estimate being 3,906*l*; total, 22,151*l.*; the actual revenue being 26,056*l.* 3*s.* 10*d.*, and the total increase, 20,000*l.* 1*s.* 5*d.* But it is more significant to observe, that on what was estimated as the revenue from the Customs duties on imported goods, viz., 121,256*l.* 1*s.* 10*d.*, there was a decrease of 1,942*l.* 18*s.* 2*d.*, that being a decrease of 27,789*l.* 19*s.* 7*d.* on the preceding year. With regard to the expenditure—under the heads of establishments and fixed salaries, the estimates gave the sum of 130,293*l.* 16*s.* 3*d.*, whereas the actual

amount was 119,550*l.* 14*s.* 11*d.*; but that estimate included the sum of 579*l.* 10*s.* 6*d.* for the electric telegraph; so that the total diminution in the cost effected by reductions amounted to 11,955*l.* 14*s.* 11*d.*, and in allowances a decrease on the estimate of 13,868*l.* 10*s.* of 2,663*l.* 4*s.* 8*d.*, making a total diminution on establishments of 14,222*l.* 12*s.* 3*d.* In pensions and retiring allowances, in consequence of reductions effected, there was an increase of 1,265*l.* 6*s.* 6*d.*; in revenue services a decrease of 1,086*l.* 5*s.* 3*d.*; in the administration of justice, 211*l.* 19*s.* 9*d.*; ecclesiastical, 330*l.* 17*s.*; charitable allowances, 2,791*l.* 19*s.* 6*d.*; education, 2,155*l.* 11*s.* 5*d.*; police and gaols, 443*l.* 11*s.* 9*d.*; and various other sums deducting the increase, in which the total decrease of expenditure was 40,420*l.* 6*s.* 3*d.*; leaving, instead of a deficient revenue, a balance in the Treasury of 9,929*l.* 11*s.* 8*d.* available for the service of the succeeding year. We have now arrived at the commencement of the year 1858, and in stating its finances it will be necessary to divide the expenditure into three divisions, viz., the extraordinary expenditure which must be met, the expenditure on the Land Fund, and the General Revenue. The extraordinary liabilities arise out of the debentures issued in 1856; and in the course of the present year the following sums become due on account of debentures:—

	£
February 1	48,300
May 31	10,800
August 1	12,000
September 18	15,700
November 11	12,300
Making payable in Hobart Town	99,100
And in London	18,400
Total	£117,500

It could scarcely have been contemplated that we could have been provided with means to meet so large a sum, and from the revenue that we have of course that sum could not be met. I am happy, however, to state that provision has been made without any inconvenience to meet all the debentures as they become due. The Government were in a position to raise money on the re-issue of debentures, so as to supply the place of those that had been drawn; and the Government were in a position to realize par for any they might re-issue. It was one of many inconveniences that so large a sum of accumulated liability should become due in one year, and a little forethought was desirable in spreading the repayments over a number of years; and accordingly a Bill would be introduced to the House to authorize the re-issue of debentures to the amount of 80,000*l.*, so as to cover the amount which had to be paid this year. And as a provident Government would always endeavour to equalize the burdens, so as not to press more heavily at one time than another, it was proposed to distribute the repayments on account of these debentures over a series of years commencing in 1860 and ending in 1866; thus the total aggregate of extraordinary liabilities would not in any one year exceed the sum of 25,000*l.* As I am now referring to the issue of debentures, it is well that the House should distinctly understand, in reference to the debentures issued, that their total amount is 282,280*l.* less the sum of 58,600*l.*, for the payment of which provision has been made in England and in this Colony, thus reducing the total sum owing on debentures to the sum of 223,680*l.*, and that sum constituted the total amount of debt owing by the Colony bearing interest. A large issue of debentures had been authorized to the amount of 45,000*l.*; but the providence of the Executive was shown in the manner in which they had issued them, viz., only when the special exigencies of the case required such issues. I will pass lightly over the estimated revenue arising from the Land Fund for the present year. It would be very difficult for any one to form a calculation of what would likely be the amount of land revenue under the new land policy, but I and my colleagues have sufficient confidence in the success of a land scheme such as we have proposed to Parliament, and been accepted by them, that it will not entail any financial inconvenience to the Colony, but on the contrary, that the revenue arising from the Land Fund will cover all its liabilities. I will now come to the statement of the estimated expenditure and general local revenue for 1858. The total amount of expenditure is estimated at 208,978*l.* 3*s.* 5*d.* To meet this, the probable and general and local revenue from existing sources is, Customs from imports, 121,000*l.*; Inland Revenue, viz., rents from toll-gates, 1,929*l.* 10*s.*; licences, 26,000*l.*; Post Office, 9,400*l.*; fines, fees, and forfeitures, 8,176*l.*; sale of Government property, 1,600*l.*; reimbursements in aid of expenses incurred by Government, 580*l.*; miscellaneous receipts, 1,180*l.*; reimbursements from land revenue, 4,863*l.* 4*s.*; electric telegraph, 700*l.*; Governor's establishment, 400*l.*; making a total of Inland Revenue of 54,828*l.* 14*s.* Grants in aid from the British Treasury, viz., in aid of postage to 1st April, 375*l.*; in aid of police to 1st April, 1,500*l.*; for printing military and convict notices in "Gazette," 175*l.*; maintenance of convicts in lunatic asylum, 4,500*l.*; ditto in penal establishments, 1,500*l.*; total, 8,050*l.*; making a grand total of 183,878*l.* 14*s.*, being the amount of estimated revenue to meet an expenditure of 208,978*l.* 3*s.* 5*d.*, thus leaving a deficiency of 25,099*l.* 9*s.* 5*d.* When some time since there was forced upon the Government the necessity of addition to the revenue to meet the expenditure, and to supply from established sources in the Colony the place of a deficient revenue, the question that naturally occurred to them was—what is the incidence of the present system of taxation in the Colony, and how does it fairly press on persons and property. We were perfectly aware that in all countries in which the financial system is based on satisfactory and clear principles there is a material difference, proportioned to the varieties of fortune and situation. In England the general and local taxation on income amounted to 20*l.* 7*s.* 10*d.* per cent.; and on persons to 2*l.* 14*s.* 2½*d.* In New South Wales the taxation upon the estimated revenue is 2*l.* 15*s.* per head upon the population, and if the financial projects of that Colony be adopted, the taxation will be raised to 3*l.* 7*s.* per head. The actual revenue of the Government of New South Wales in 1856 was 1,075,331*l.*, and the value of the exports 3,430,880*l.*; therefore the proportion was 31*l.* 6*s.* 10*d.* per cent. on the value of the exports of the Colony. In South Australia the revenue for 1856 was 433,420*l.* 16*s.* 5*d.*, and the value of the exports 1,398,367*l.* 14*s.* 1*d.*, showing the proportion to be 30*l.* 12*s.* 8*d.* per cent. In Tasmania the revenue for

TASMANIA. 1856 was 266,741*l.* 3*s.* 5*d.*, and the value of the exports 1,207,802*l.*, showing the proportion to be 22*l.* 1*s.* 6*d.* per cent. The taxation of the Colony, in the years 1854, 1855, and 1856, bore a proportion to the population of 2*l.* 5*s.* 9*d.* per head. The system of taxation in this Colony has in a few years exhibited a diminished burden on property, and an increased burden on persons. The Customs and internal taxation of this Colony, taking the average of the years 1849, 1850, and 1851, to the value of the exports, amounted to 14*l.* 15*s.* per cent.; and notwithstanding the augmented costs of government in 1854, 1855, and 1856, we find it reduced to 13*l.* 10*s.* per cent.; the average to imports of the former period being 16*l.* 3*s.* per cent., and the latter 10*l.* 2*s.* per cent.; the latter being 6*l.* 1*s.* less than the former. The property, as indicated by deposits in our banks, is as follows:—In 1849, 1850, and 1851, the average deposits amounted only to 370,033*l.* 18*s.* 0¼*d.* In 1854, 1855, and 1856, they were 1,534,639*l.* 10*s.* 11¼*d.* The taxation of the country corresponded in the former period to 24*l.* 9*s.* per cent., in the latter to 11*l.* 18*s.* per cent.; whilst on mere population it has been increasing, the average of 1849, 1850, and 1851, being 1*l.* 5*s.* 10*d.* per head, and of 1854, 1855, and 1856, 2*l.* 5*s.* 9*d.* per head, or 30 per cent. increase. We are too often accustomed to speak of the taxation of the Colony in a lumped sum. The taxation lumped on spirits, tobacco, tea, sugar, and a few licences gives a total of 2*l.* 5*s.* 9*d.* per head, but it does not give more than five or six shillings to non-consumers of spirituous liquors and tobacco in a country the Government of which carried on a Post Office at a loss of 14,000*l.*; which spent 12,000*l.* in educational purposes, and 15,000*l.* in ecclesiastical and all the institutions of an advanced state of society. It was necessary, therefore, to contemplate the adjustment of the revenue to the obligations of property and persons. The principle of this financial system of the Colony was adopted by the Legislature some years since, and was suggested by my hon. friend, Mr. Chapman, who substituted fixed for *ad valorem* duties. The expediency of that principle of the fiscal system was confirmed by its subsequent adoption in New South Wales and Victoria. The Colony of South Australia was invited to follow the example, but the Government declined, not having developed any new sources of revenue. It is, however, worth while to observe the course the Colonies had taken on finding that their revenues were insufficient to meet their expenditure. In New South Wales the duty on brandy has been raised from 6*s.* to 10*s.*, and in Victoria from 7*s.* to 10*s.*; in New South Wales, rum was raised from 4*s.* to 7*s.*, and in Victoria from 7*s.* to 10*s.*; gin was increased in New South Wales from 6*s.* to 10*s.*, and in Victoria from 7*s.* to 10*s.*, and wines, tobacco, sugar, and coffee had been doubled. And not finding the revenue then adequate, New South Wales had resorted to other modes of raising a revenue. The revenue from the distillation of spirits in 1857 amounted to 70,000*l.*, and gold licences, miners' rights, &c. to 76,000*l.*; and up to the latest intelligence it was contemplated to raise the sum of 20,000*l.* by an assessment on stock; and Mr. Donaldson, no mean authority, had declared that the General Government must relieve itself by casting on municipal bodies the burden of local taxation. In Victoria, after raising the fixed duties on Customs by 374,550*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* by the assessment of stock, they contemplated a still further provision amounting to 71,703*l.* 15*s.* 7*d.* The question at the present time, in the absence of new sources of revenue developing themselves in this Colony, was, what course of financial legislation the ministry should take. It had occurred to us, with no disposition to favour the adoption of *ad valorem* duties, how far it might be incumbent on us to take that course; but a little examination of the returns of imports to the Colony for a series of years will at once point to the conclusion at which we have arrived. Total imports at ports in the Colony of Tasmania for the year ended 31st December 1856 were 1,442,106*l.*, viz., from Great Britain: value of articles liable to fixed duty, 161,508*l.*; value of articles which pay no duty, as cattle, sheep, flour, or grain, 36,662*l.*; value of articles which pay no duty, not included in the above, 614,575*l.*: total imports from Great Britain, 812,745*l.* Inter-colonial: value of articles liable to fixed duty, 147,459*l.*; ditto, which pay no duty, as cattle, sheep, flour, or grain, 237,122*l.*; value of articles which pay no duty, not included in the above, 181,054*l.*; total imports Inter-colonial, 565,635*l.* United States and other Foreign States: value of articles liable to duty, 12,799*l.*; ditto, which pay no duty, as cattle, sheep, flour, or grain, 31,437*l.*; value of articles which pay no duty, not included in the above, 19,490*l.*; total imports, United and the Foreign States, 63,726*l.* Total miscellaneous imports, excluding cattle, sheep, flour, grain, and articles subject to fixed duty, 815,119*l.*: value of this description of imports expected again, 146,289*l.*—total, 668,830. Reduced nominal value if duties imposed, say 600,000*l.* Average *ad valorem* of 5 per cent., 30,000*l.* The value of imports at ports in the Colony of Tasmania for the year ended 31st December 1857 were—total imports, 1,271,087*l.*; value of articles imported chargeable with a fixed duty, 351,038*l.*; value of articles coming under the designation of food, such as cattle, sheep grain, &c., and imported free of duty, 182,353*l.*; value of articles of a miscellaneous character not chargeable with duty, 737,696*l.*; value of miscellaneous imports, re-exported, estimated in the proportion of re-exports of 1856, 132,394*l.*; remaining, 605,302*l.*; reduced nominal value, if duties were imposed, 550,000*l.* On considering the whole question, and the probable increased cost of collection in the event of adopting the *ad valorem* principle, as well as the risk of inconvenient retaliating Inter-colonial duties, we determined not to resort to that principle; but bearing in mind these two leading principles, the raising of an adequate revenue and the equitable adjustment of the burden of taxation, we have deemed it expedient to consider what was the nature of the expenditure of the Colony, when we came to entertain the question of adjusting the revenue to the expenditure. The House must, to a certain extent, have been prepared for the financial policy of the Government when the estimates were submitted—a distinction being made between the Local and the General Expenditure. In the estimates for 1857, if analysed, it would be seen that the General Expenditure was estimated at 178,574*l.* 14*s.* 8*d.*, and the Local at 156,824*l.* 19*s.* 9*d.*; but I need not now enter into details. The Local Expenditure would comprise police, gaols, ecclesiastical, roads, and public works. I shall not trouble the House with any statement of the expenditnre estimated in the various districts of the Colony, as in some of the districts any conclusion that may be drawn will be complicated by a variety of considerations, but there are some districts so purely agricultural or pastoral in their character, that it is easy to discriminate what the expenses are.

Enclosure 2 in No. 33.

Encl. 2 in No. 33.

STATEMENT of TOTAL IMMIGRATION to TASMANIA, at the Public Expense, during the Half-Year ending 31st December 1857.

—	Births on the Voyage.			Deaths on the Voyage.										Immigrants Introduced.												Passage Money.
				Married.		Single.		3 and under 12.		1 and under 3.		Under 1.		Married.		Single.		3 and under 12.		1 and under 3.		Under 1.		Number.		Total Souls.	Statute Adults.	
Bounty System.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.			£ s. d.
From the United Kingdom -	3	2	5	–	–	1	1	1	1	–	–	1	–	5	137	157	364	295	109	75	34	25	16	14	660	566	1,226	1,075	17,082 0 0
From Germany - - -	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	3	4	7	7	2	1	–	–	–	–	12	12	24	22½	337 10 0
TOTAL Bounty System -	3	2	5	–	–	1	1	1	1	–	–	1	–	5	140	161	371	302	111	76	34	25	16	14	672	578	1,250	1,097½	17,419 10 0
Through the Highland and Island Emigration Society, from the Islands of Coll and Harris - - - - -	–	–	–	2	1	1	1	–	–	1	2	–	–	8	26	27	47	43	15	25	4	3	2	1	94	99	193	166½	*2,716 0 0
TOTAL - - -	3	2	5	2	1	2	2	1	1	1	2	1	–	13	166	188	418	345	126	101	38	28	18	15	766	677	1,443	1,264	20,135 10 0

	£	s.	d.
TOTAL Passage Money - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - -	20,135	10	0
Gratuities - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - -	632	14	3
	20,768	4	3
Less deposits received on Ordinary Bounty Tickets - - - - 2,537 0 0			
Do. Amount of Promisory Notes received on Blank Bounty Tickets - 153 0 0	2,690	0	0
	18,078	4	3

* Calculated a 16*l.* per Statute Adult, which is believed to be the rate paid in England. These Emigrants were sent out with the balance of 3,000*l.*, remitted to the Highland Society by this Government several years ago.

JOHN D. LOCK, Immigration Agent.

Enclosure 3 in No. 33.

Encl. 3 in No. 33.

SIR, Head-quarters, Hobart Town, March 4, 1858.

AGREEABLY to the instructions contained in the letter dated Horse Guards, 9th January 1857, and its several enclosures, I have the honour to forward returns and reports* relative to the state of the defences of this Colony.

* Not printed.

The present defences of the Colony consist in the batteries at Hobart Town and Launceston, the Queen's troops stationed in this Island, and a local force of pensioners.

The batteries at Hobart Town and Launceston are in an efficient state, as shown in the accompanying Report from the Commanding Royal Engineer.

The Queen's troops stationed in Tasmania consist of 15 officers, 27 serjeants, 7 drummers, and 382 rank and file, and are distributed as follows:—

—	Officers.	Serjeants.	Drummers.	Rank and File.
At Hobart Town - -	13	24	7	299
At Launceston - -	–	1	–	13
At Tasman's Peninsula -	2	2	–	70
Total - -	15	27	7	382

More than half of the regiment at present stationed here have been trained to the battery and field-gun exercise, and the remainder are in course of instruction.

The only local force existing in this Colony consists of a body of pensioners, which, by the returns herewith transmitted, show a strength of 288 men fit for duty. This body of men came out here as convict guards, and have obtained a small grant of land as settlers in various parts of the Island. They are, consequently, scattered in small bodies, generally near some township. They might be effective in suppressing internal emeutes, but from their age and character, I do not think they would be an available force against an external enemy.

The police force, which is a numerous body in this Island, appears to me to be well organized; these, if called out, would be efficient against an external enemy.

The general feature of the Island of Tasmania is mountainous and woody; a large portion of the northern side (about Launceston especially) has been cleared for cultivation. One main road runs through the centre of the island from Hobart Town to Launceston, and is in very good order; there are also several by-roads leading to the different townships. Owing to the wooded state of the country, a small force, with local knowledge, could oppose almost any force traversing the country.

The staple of the wealth of this Colony consists in wool, timber, oil, and agricultural produce. There have been many discoveries of gold; up to the present moment, however, no remunerating gold field has been worked.

TASMANIA.

The principal towns are Hobart Town and Launceston, and in which the whole of the wealth of the Island may be said to be concentrated; and hence the defence of these places I deem to be the great essential to be looked to. I consider that floating batteries placed in advance of the town would, in conjunction with casemated batteries on shore, be more effective for the protection of these places than the present arrangement of the batteries.

The sea approach to both towns is a lengthy channel; that to Launceston in many parts extremely narrow, that to Hobart Town more open and less easily defended.

The population of the Island, of every description, by the last census amounts to 81,492. Among these are many liberated convicts and ticket-of-leave men: many of both these classes have amassed considerable property in the Island. I think, therefore, that an efficient militia might be organized; in which case, I should recommend those from the towns should be embodied as artillery, and those from the rural districts as a mounted rifle corps, for which the pursuits of the country population would well adapt them.

There appears to me to be no great inducement for an enemy to visit this Colony, except for the purpose of destroying the mercantile shipping and for pillage.

Perhaps, therefore, were a joint fleet raised by the whole of the Australian Colonies, it would afford, in all probability, the most desirable and efficient description of protection from aggression.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. W. PERCEVAL, Colonel,
Commanding Troops, Tasmania.

To His Excellency Sir H. Young, K.C.B.,
Captain-General and Governor-in-Chief, Tasmania.

Encl. 4. in No. 33.

Enclosure 4 in No. 33.

ROYAL SOCIETY OF TASMANIA, 1857.

REPORT.

THE Council of the Royal Society of Tasmania, in pursuance of their usual custom, present to the Annual General Meeting of Members, their report upon the operations of the Society during the year which has closed. It is very satisfactory to the Council to have to record that the session, or rather year, has been, as regards this Institution, a successful one. The position which the Society has established for itself in public opinion here, and the estimation in which it is held by kindred associations in other parts of the world, afford an excellent guarantee for future progress, and give ample assurance that with the possession of adequate skill and ability, means and encouragement fully commensurate will ultimately be forthcoming for the prosecution of its objects.

The evening meetings of the Society—fourteen in number—have been numerously attended, and valuable papers have been read upon the following amongst other subjects:—upon *Irrigation*, as applicable to this Colony; upon some branches of *Statistics;* upon *Meteorology* and *Astronomical Observations;* upon the introduction of the *Breed of Salmon* into the Island; upon *Insects* destructive to certain edible sorts of vegetation, &c. &c. The question of the comparative nutritive value of Tasmanian wheat and flour having been raised, a Committee was appointed to investigate and report; the Committee, in the first instance, restricted its experiments to flour, and the results obtained have been most favourable to that of Tasmania, which is found fully to sustain its character for excellence, and to be equal in quality to any flour in the southern hemisphere.

Communications have been opened with the Home Authorities, through His Excellency the President, in order to place in a prominent point of view the suitability of this Island for the site of the proposed New Southern Observatory, and a favourable reply has been received and published. Application has likewise been made to the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies, through His Excellency Sir H. E. F. Young, for certain of the Ordnance Geological Maps of the United Kingdom, to complete an imperfect set now in possession of the Society. Sir Roderic Murchison, the Director of the Ordnance Geological Survey, and of the Government Museum of Practical Geology, has also been solicited to furnish an illustrative collection of rocks, minerals, and fossils, to form standards of comparison with similar specimens the produce of Tasmania; and despatches have been received and lately published here, intimating that the Plans and Maps of the Ordnance Geological Survey of the United Kingdom, and printed reports and publications connected therewith, together with a series of specimens from the British fossiliferous formations, have been forwarded to the Colonial Agent in London, for the purpose of being transmitted to the Society.

Two cases containing casts of rare and interesting fossil remains, amongst which are comprised two of the gigantic eggs of the *Epyornis* of Madagascar, have been received from the Museum of the *Jardin des Plantes* at Paris.

The Museum has been enriched with many donations of objects of a miscellaneous character, but of considerable interest and value. A series of minor trophies or relics of the battle fields of the Alma, of Inkermann, and the Tschernaya, &c., &c., have been received from Mr. Midwood, A.C.G., formerly stationed here. Mr. William Rout, of this city, has presented, in a large glass case, a very fine stuffed specimen of cheetah or hunting leopard of India. A complete list of donations to the Museum, and the names of the donors, are appended, as usual, to the Report.

The number of books acquired during the year has been considerable,—partly from purchases made, and partly from the liberality of Members of the Society and other persons. Amongst the former are parts in continuation of Gould's splendidly illustrated and beautifully finished works on "Birds of "Asia," "Humming Birds," and "Mammals of Australia," Reeves' "Conchologia Iconica," and Hooker's "Flora of Tasmania," &c. &c.

The Museum and Library are open to visitors every day (Wednesday excepted), from 12 o'clock noon to 5 o'clock afternoon; the books in the Library are, during this interval, available to the public

for consultation. Members of the Society have exclusively the right to borrow books. Books containing valuable plates are not lent out.

The number of visitors to the Museum during the—

Year	1854 was	1,000
„	1855 „	1,096
„	1856 „	1,744
„	1857 it rose to	2,443

Were there sufficient space in the Museum to admit of a proper classification and arrangement of objects, or even to allow of specimens being distinctly though roughly grouped according to their natural relations and affinities, its attractiveness to visitors in general would be greatly increased, while its utility and value as a field of observation for the student would be much enhanced.

The Council cannot but express their sincere regret that no step has yet been taken by the Government to give practical effect to the favourable sentiments expressed by His Excellency the Governor, when application was made by them in 1856, for a central site upon which to erect a New Museum, and an appropriation of a sum of money asked wherewith to begin the work. The subject has been lately again very strongly urged upon the Executive Government, and the plans and elevation of a spacious, elegant, and commodious building, expressly designed for the purpose of a National Tasmanian Museum, by Mr. Francis Butler, and presented by him to the Society, were at the same time handed to the Colonial Treasurer, and are still before the Government.

The purposes to be served by the establishment of a public museum are so entirely and exclusively for the benefit of the whole community, that the Council feel they need not shrink from importunity even, should this unhappily become requisite, to compass their object. The present overcrowded condition of the Museum does not merely justify the most pointed and pressing representations, but calls imperatively for immediate, energetic, and combined action on the part of all who are interested in its working or favourable to its objects; the Council look, therefore, to the Members of the Society and to the citizens of Hobart Town to strengthen their hands.

Such institutions become more and more valuable and important as educational agents as time passes and one age succeeds another, their advantages are equally open to all classes of society; no other institution, therefore, has a stronger claim upon posterity, while none ought to command a warmer sympathy or more cordial support from people of the present day, as no other offers to the general mass of inhabitants in a manner so free, or a form so engaging, its rich and varied stores for intellectual enjoyment.

Wherever civilization and mental culture are appreciated, such institutions reflect credit upon the country which possesses and encourages them. Museums, as public buildings, tend, when erected, to embellish a city; and during their actual construction and progress they yield employment to mechanics, labourers, and artizans, and give a lively and wholesome stimulus to trade.

The Meteorological Observatories instituted by the Government in 1855–6, at Hobart Town, Port Arthur, Campbell Town, Launceston, and George Town have yet only been completely in operation at the three first-named places. The Hobart Town tables have alone been printed; and the cost of printing them for the years 1856–7 will approach the sum of 100*l*. Important and valuable as these tables practically are, in diffusing a knowledge of the climatic conditions and character of this favoured Island, their publication must cease, and all the charges for the erection of Observatories, and all the attention and labour bestowed will have been incurred in vain, unless the Government make some provision to meet the cost of printing; the Council of the Society being without funds to defray such charges, no calculation of this nature having been made, and no arrangement or understanding arrived at beyond this, that the Society should not suffer pecuniary loss thereby.

The Council are, however, of opinion, that the Observatories may still be maintained, provided the Government will consent to the Meteorological Tables being printed, from month to month, at the Government printing office; a course which they would consider a most legitimate application of a portion of the operative labour of a public department to a great public object.

The Council think it not unbecoming in them, at the present juncture, to glance at the completion in the course of last year, of the line of Electric Telegraph across the Island of Tasmania, since it was at this table, and before the Fellows of this Society, that a project was first mooted and publicly discussed for establishing this and intercolonial lines with a view to their ultimate union with wires from India and Europe.

The proposal of Professor Wilson, and other gentlemen, having charge and direction at the Crystal Palace, Sydenham, to find a place therein for exhibiting the products of Tasmania, made to R. W. Nutt, Esq., M.P., and accepted by him on the part of the Colony, at a time when he acted as its accredited agent to the Paris Exhibition, has devolved on the Society the duty of collecting and preparing samples and specimens; and there are now accordingly accumulated in the Museum, and nearly ready for shipment, several fine pieces of ornamental woods, with samples of wheat, barley, oats, wool, &c. There are but few persons resident in Tasmania who, from peculiarities of taste, pursuit, and occupation, under the varying local conditions of climate and of physical production (indigenous or otherwise) dependent on them, have it not in their power to contribute something characteristic of the Island or creditable to its industry; to all such the Council earnestly appeal for co-operation and assistance.

Samples of the following articles would be most appropriate for transmission:—Dried or preserved fruits in glass jars,—grain of all sorts,—flour,—biscuits of sorts,—essential oils, of the blue gum, of sassafras, and of the croton shrub, so common in this vicinity; timber for ship-building, house-building, and for special purposes; fancy woods, timber adapted for wood engraving, red gum of the grass-tree, (*Xanthorhœa*), gum of the wattle, kino or red gum of the stringy bark and other Eucalypti,—manna, bark of the wattle,—blackwood and other acacia, and of the banksia and other trees,—extracts, &c., for tanning purposes, dye-woods, bark and other vegetable products, for medicinal purposes, such as that of the sassafras, the berries and bark of the "native pepper," or *Tasmania fragrans*, &c.

Animal products, raw or manufactured; horns, hoofs, hair, glue, and oils of all kinds, wool of every description, furs, skins of wild or domesticated animals, dressed skins, leather, &c.

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Minerals; granites, greenstones, basalt, porphyries, lava, obsidian, and other eruptive rocks,—coal, bituminous schists, &c.—clay-ironstone, sandstones, marls, limestones, marbles, conglomerates susceptible of a high polish,—roofing slate, whet-slate, auriferous slates, auriferous quartz and quartz-sand fit for glass-making, such as is found on the granitic islands in Bass's Straits, and other mineral substances met with in peculiar localities and formations, such as Epsom salts, alum, common salt, metallic ores, &c.

The Secretary will, on application, afford all necessary information as to the kind and quality of articles most suitable, and the amount, quantity, or number of each, which ought to be forwarded.

The Council have but few remarks to make on the Society's Gardens. A catalogue of the plants cultivated in the Gardens has been printed and published, and it is proposed to publish a supplement containing the names of such plants as were then omitted or have been since added to the collection. The Gardens maintain the high character which they have so long borne for richness and variety of vegetable productions, and for neatness and order. The good taste of the citizens of Hobart Town leads them still to seek enjoyment in the picturesque beauty of the situation; it is still the favourite promenade to which the inhabitants resort by hundreds upon holidays. The register of visitors for the last ten years stands as follows:—

In 1847 - - - -	2,287	In 1852 - - - -	9,252
„ 1848 - - - -	4,964	„ 1853 - - - -	12,655
„ 1849 - - - -	6,155	„ 1854 - - - -	13,733
„ 1850 - - - -	9,191	„ 1855 - - - -	15,710
„ 1851 - - - -	8,932	„ 1856 - - - -	13,251

And during 1857 the number again rose to 15,214.

The condition of the Society's finances has directed the attention of the Council to the practicability of devising measures by which, while the fullest efficiency is secured in the actual working department at the Gardens, a smaller aggregate expenditure may be incurred, and the cost for effective labouring strength be made to bear a larger proportion to that for supervision than it now does.

The balance-sheet duly audited and now laid upon the Table, presents a gross expenditure of 1,238*l.* 12*s.* 1*d.*, to be placed against the aggregate receipts, amounting to 1,135*l.* 4*s.* 11*d.*, leaving a balance against the Society of 103*l.* 7*s.* 2*d.*

At the close of 1856 there was a net balance of 10*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.* against the Society, but the bill of our London bookseller has been since paid, amounting to about 130*l.*, and it is not likely for some years again to reach the same magnitude. On the other hand, there will be a heavy charge to meet for printing meteorological tables, in addition to ordinary disbursements for printing the Society's Journal and Report, &c.

Eighty-four Fellows are in arrears of payment of last year's contribution—26 of them are in arrears for two years, and nine are in arrears from 1855. It has been the practice of the Council to remove the names of Fellows hopelessly in arrears, and they propose now to pursue the same course—reserving to themselves the exercise of a wide discretion in cases where there is a fair prospect of arrears being ultimately paid.

The Council do not expect that the income of the Society for the current year from every source will fall under 1,250*l.*, reckoning upon the liquidation of the major part of the outstanding subscriptions; and they consider that the expenditure for the same period can scarcely be reduced below that of 1857.

The receipts, expenditure, and the balance of the branch of the Society holding meetings in Launceston appear on both sides of the general statement of funds now submitted, and do not, of course, affect their relative amount, though the aggregate sum is materially swelled thereby.

The business of the meeting, after disposing of the report, will be to elect, by ballot, from the two lists now suspended in this room, of eight Fellows of the Society, *four* to fill the places of those members of the Council who retire in rotation at this season—namely, Messrs. J. Hone, the Hon. W. Henty, J. Allport, and the Hon. John Walker. The election of two auditors for the current year will follow.

Encl. 5 in No. 33.

Enclosure 5 in No. 33.

PROROGATION SPEECH.

(Queen's Arms.)

Honourable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council, and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly;

1. AFTER a Session which has been protracted in its duration, but which has also been fertile in measures of importance to the industrial and social progress of this Colony, I have now the satisfaction of relieving you, for a time, from attendance in Parliament. In doing so, I cannot withhold the expression of my congratulation on the results of your labours,—which are not likely to be surpassed in the compass of their objects, in their variety, or in the permanence of the benefits arising from them, by the measures of any future Session which we can now contemplate.

2. When the political Institutions of the Mother-Country were adopted, so far as they were susceptible of adaptation, in the Government of Tasmania, prudence and consistency required that they should be followed by the introduction of other institutions of that Country, which, although less conspicuous, are yet indispensable auxiliaries to their perfect operation. Of this character are the municipal and other local institutions which there subdivide public duties,—carry the principles and the modes of self-government throughout the whole framework of society,—and, by the opinion and the habits which they foster, afford at the same time, inestimable guarantees of public liberty, and a conservative barrier against political licence. You have lost no time in legislating with a view to the formation of such institutions, and where they already existed, you have enlarged their sphere of action,

and assisted their beneficial operation. I find that you have, in the Session of Parliament, which I now bring to a conclusion, passed no less than ten Bills of this description; namely,—

A Bill to establish Rural Municipalities.

A Bill to confer certain Powers upon the Municipal Councils of the City of Hobart Town and Town of Launceston.

A Bill to incorporate the Citizens of the City of Hobart Town.

A Bill to provide for paving, draining, cleansing, lighting, and improving the City of Hobart Town, and for promoting the Health, Safety, and Comfort of the Inhabitants thereof.

A Bill for levying a Police Rate in Country Districts.

A Bill to vest the Charge and Control of the Police Force of the City of Hobart Town and Town of Launceston in the Municipal Council of such City and Town respectively.

A Bill to enable the Municipal Council of the City of Hobart Town and Town of Launceston to execute the Common Lodging-houses Act within such City and Town.

A Bill to regulate the slaughtering of Animals, and Sale of Meat, in the City of Hobart Town and the Vicinity thereof.

A Bill to establish Marine Boards, and to vest in such Boards the general Control and Management of Ports, Pilots, Light-houses, and other Matters relating to Navigation.

A Bill for the Valuation of Property throughout the Colony.

3. I trust that the discretion with which the local powers conferred by the principal Bills I have enumerated will be exercised, will reflect credit on the Bodies entrusted with them, and tend to the advancement of the public interests.

4. At the close of the last session of Parliament I expressed my regret that you had not been able to devise any measure in respect to the sale and settlement of the waste lands of the Colony; but at the same time I intimated my acquiescence in the expediency of legislation being postponed on that question, in preference to its being dealt with in a crude or partial manner, likely to require future amendment. When I advert to the two Bills which you have passed in the present session, namely, a Bill for regulating the Sale and Disposal of Waste Lands of the Crown in the Colony of Tasmania, and a Bill to authorize the gratuitous Disposal upon certain Conditions of certain unsettled Waste Lands of the Crown in the Colony of Tasmania, and to the very general approval which their provisions elicited from the community after ample time had been afforded for their consideration, I am the more satisfied that nothing was lost by delay; and I rejoice to think that a question which still embarrasses neighbouring Colonies has been settled by you in a manner which is likely to be permanent, and highly favourable to the industry and enterprise of Tasmania.

5. The measures of law reform submitted to you in the present session may, some of them, be of a character which is not favourable to their popular appreciation; but, by those who are competent to judge of them, their importance and value must appear such as to demand special acknowledgment.

The Equity Procedure Act introduces into this Colony the progressive improvements which have been effected during the last thirty years in the administration of justice by Courts of Equity in England. It places a reasonable limit to the duration and expense of equity suits where necessary; and, by providing a summary mode of application to the Court, affords to trustees, and to parties beneficially interested, the means of obtaining without delay, and at a slight expense, the opinion and sanction of the Court in a variety of cases, in which, under the recent state of the law, a suit would have been ruinous, or, at the best, disproportioned to the value of the property forming the subject of the suit.

The Executors' Relief Act will not only, as its title implies, relieve executors and administrators from unnecessary liability, but will be a boon to families by removing objections on the part of individuals to act as executors, and by enabling them, under certain restrictions, to distribute the assets in their hands among legatees or next of kin beneficially concerned, without incurring the expense and delay of proceedings in equity for their protection against outstanding and dormant claims.

The Land Clauses Act embraces the provisions usually required in Acts authorizing the acquisition of lands for undertakings of a public nature. It secures that uniformity which is so desirable in the measures necessary to acquire and give compensation for such lands, and enables the promoters of works of public utility to obtain, at a moderate expense, the special legislative sanction which they may require.

The Special Jury Act provides for the selection of jurors of education, intelligence, and social position for the trial of cases of difficulty and importance, and will be welcomed as a measure tending to strengthen the confidence of suitors in that mode of trial.

By the Creditors' Remedies Act, a speedy and necessary remedy is provided for recovering in this Colony debts contracted by persons in other Australian Colonies, and then removing to this.

The Bankers and Trustees' Fraud Act supplies a deficiency in the law, by extending punishment to a class of cases in which criminal culpability might heretofore be incurred with comparative impunity.

By the Act abolishing the Office of Master of the Supreme Court, whose principal duties under the Equity Procedure Act devolve on the Judges, simplification and economy are attained in proceedings concerning very important interests.

I regret that the object of a cheap, summary, and satisfactory mode of recovering small claims did not appear to you to be provided for by the Small Debts Bill submitted by my Government.

The Trust Funds' Investment Bill, which is merely of an enabling character, by authorizing the investment of moneys on the security of the public lands and revenue, will meet in a satisfactory manner a class of cases in which it is difficult to invest trust funds of small amount on mortgage, and thus prove of advantage to those interested in such funds.

The Act amending the Law of Libel gets rid of what has been pronounced by high legal authority to be "a monstrous anomaly" in the state of the law, by which the truth was excluded in justification in prosecutions for libel, although the indictment charged the libel to be false; and it reconciles the law with the principles of public morality and expediency.

TASMANIA.

In the Electoral Act, while provision has been made which prevents the elector's change of residence from operating as a disqualification, the objectionable practice of nomination at a public meeting has been abolished, and thus a serious hindrance has been removed to men of solid worth and fitness offering themselves to public choice as representatives, and popular election is brought more under the guidance of rational considerations instead of being influenced by passion and excitement.

The amendment of the Licensing Act will be welcomed by a large class of persons on whom restrictions have pressed, exceeding those occasions for which their business has been subjected, in all countries, to peculiar regulations.

The General Sessions Act, by which the selection of the Chairman of Courts of General Sessions is delegated to the local magistrates, is in harmony with other measures of the session, which tend to reduce the province of the Central Government, and confide local functions and responsibilities to those who are most interested in their being satisfactorily provided for.

By the Pawnbrokers' amended Act, besides wholesome restrictions upon a business liable to be abused, the poorer classes are relieved from extortions to which their necessities have hitherto left them exposed.

The Amended Cross Roads Act embodies provisions which have been suggested by the experience of those who have carried out previous measures on this important subject.

The Act limiting the appropriation of the Land Fund has already received the approval of capitalists, and has exercised an influence advantageous to the Colony on the terms on which money has been tendered for debentures; and, at the same time that it has fortified the credit of the Colony, has deprived any Ministry that may be in office of all motive to an improvident exercise of discretion in the disposal of the Public Lands.

Gentlemen of the House of Assembly;

6. I thank you for the Supplies which you have voted for the Public Service of the year 1858: and I assure you that they will be expended by my Government with a consistent regard to economy. The provision you have made for special objects of expenditure, by Acts authorizing the issue of debentures, will likewise be applied with care and prudence, and with a strict reference to the purposes for which you have designed them.

Honourable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council, and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly;

7. It is grateful to me, in meeting you on this occasion to prorogue your deliberations, that I am not required to do so before you have adopted measures with a view to adjusting the Revenue to the necessary expenditure of the Colony.

In so far as those measures relate to the Customs, the adequacy of the results to which we may look forward must be held to be uncertain, when you bear in mind that the necessity for the measures did not arise from increased public expenditure, but from the serious diminution which had taken place in the Revenue derived from the principal sources hitherto provided; a diminution, I have reason to believe, chiefly to be imputed to altered and improved tastes and habits in a great part of our population. I indulge, however, the hope that, as a whole, the financial measures of the Session will prove sufficient for the exigencies of the country, while I congratulate you that they have been of a character tending to remind those classes which have thriven under the protection of the Institutions of Government in Tasmania, that property has its special duties and obligations in respect to the maintenance of those Institutions, as to them property owes its very existence, and for it their cost is chiefly incurred. And here I must express the regret with which I observe the abandonment to a great extent, of those duties, in the growth of absenteeism on the part of wealthy proprietors. The evil, which is manifold in its bearings, has arrested the serious attention of my Government; but how to provide a remedy must be admitted to be a difficult problem in practical politics.

8. I am happy to learn that the general interests of the Colony remain in a sound and satisfactory state; and, under the blessing of Divine Providence on your measures, and on the spontaneous enterprise and the persevering industry of its inhabitants, I trust and believe that Tasmania will not be less conspicuous in whatever constitutes the solid prosperity and worth of a country than any colony in the Australian group.

I now prorogue this Parliament to Tuesday, the 20th of July next.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

No. 34.

Copy of DESPATCH from Governor Sir Richard Graves Macdonnell to the Right Hon. Sir E. Bulwer Lytton, Bart.

No. 272.

Government House, Adelaide,
13th November 1858.

Sir, (Received 12th February 1859.)

I regret that some changes in the Chief Secretary's Office, together with a prolonged illness of the principal clerk there during a portion of the current year, led to such frequent interruption in the compilation of the Blue Book Returns for 1857, that I only received the Blue Book a few weeks back. I feel, therefore, that, as similar delays are not likely to recur in the completion of the Blue Book for the present year, it will so soon become my duty to report again on the general position and prospects of the colony, that I believe it is expedient to defer for the present any very lengthened observations on the subject till the returns for the year, now nearly ended, shall be before me.

My report, moreover, on the Blue Book of 1856 was so full, and was transmitted so late in 1857, that a similar report now—especially if intended to be succeeded by a third within a few months—would be almost premature. It therefore becomes expedient to reserve, till a comparatively early period in the next year, the comments which I would otherwise have desired to make on the subjects least extensively treated in my last report. Amongst those, the most interesting would seem to be the actual and probable political results of the great constitutional change effected in 1856 in the government of this colony, together with the probable further development of its material prospects, whether viewed in connexion with recent explorations in the interior, the improved navigation of the great water highways to the interior, or the rapidly increasing general facilities for internal communication by roads and railways.

It is, nevertheless, desirable to connect the present with the past year by a comparative statistical summary of the most interesting details of each; and I therefore annex such a summary, and only regret that it is not more readable and clear in its arrangement.

I have, &c.
R. G. MACDONNELL,
Governor.

The Right Hon. Sir E. B. Lytton, Bart, M.P.,
&c. &c. &c.

South Australia.

Comparative Statistical Summary for the years 1856 and 1857.

Population.

In the following table the estimated population on the 31st December 1857 is contrasted with that on the 31st December 1856:—

	Males.		Females.		Total.
	Under 14 Years.	14 Years and over.	Under 14 Years.	14 Years and over.	
31 December 1857 - -	23,153	32,582	23,361	30,821	109,917
„ 1856 - -	20,941	35,323	20,942	30,680	107,886

showing an increase at the close of the year 1857 of 2,031. There has been no census taken since 31st March 1855.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

The Births, Marriages, and Deaths officially registered in 1857, and in the preceding year, were as follows:—

Year.	Births.	Marriages.	Deaths.
1856	4,488	1,172	1,147
1857	5,183	1,218	1,304

Vide also detailed statement *infra.*

The number of aborigines in the settled districts cannot be estimated with any accuracy.

COMPARATIVE RETURN of the Number of BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, and DEATHS registered in the PROVINCE of SOUTH AUSTRALIAN during the Years 1851 to 1857, inclusive.

BIRTHS.

Year.	Males.	Females.	Totals.
1851	1,405	1,354	2,759
1852	1,431	1,296	2,727
1853	1,401	1,373	2,774
1854	1,728	1,723	3,451
1855	2,054	1,890	3,944
1856	2,336	2,152	4,488
1857	2,640	2,543	5,183

MARRIAGES.

Solemnized	1851.	1852.	1853.	1854.	1855.	1856.	1857.
By the Church of England - -	37	517	591	463	99	488	493
„ „ Scotland - -	4	9	53	30	28	35	23
„ Roman Catholics - -	20	61	113	137	145	201	260
„ German Lutherans - -	43	49	90	75	68	85	90
„ Congregational Independents -	43	47	56	90	86	66	58
„ Wesleyans - - -	31	24	46	44	79	118	114
„ Free Church - - -	—	13	36	49	50	70	48
„ Christians - - -	2	—	4	3	1	5	5
„ Deputy-Registrar, Adelaide -	7	2	2	10	—	—	—
„ Baptists - - -	—	—	9	9	31	46	28
„ Bible Christians - - -	—	4	10	16	27	36	44
„ Primitive Methodists - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	28
„ Friends - - -	—	—	2	—	1	2	—
„ Moravians - - - -	—	—	—	—	1	2	2
„ United Presbyterian - -	—	—	—	—	3	—	1
„ Unitarian - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
„ Jews - - - -	2	—	7	—	2	1	1
„ District Registrars - -	—	—	1	2	13	17	22
	189	726	1,020	928	634	1,172	1,218

DEATHS.

Year.	Age.														Males.	Females.	Totals.
	Under 2 Years.		Under 5 Years.		Under 10 Years.		Under 30 Years.		Under 50 Years.		50 Years & above.		Age Unknown.				
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.			
1851 - -	278	261	25	27	17	10	81	58	96	59	35	26	—	—	532	441	973
1852 - -	301	256	31	37	19	17	68	54	86	70	34	34	17	4	595	503	1,098
1853 - -	333	305	93	77	32	29	72	71	106	70	40	31	15	1	691	584	1,275
1854 - -	411	357	51	61	20	22	65	74	86	74	64	39	18	4	715	631	1,346
1855 - -	472	413	79	61	28	18	88	108	112	107	61	51	48	17	888	775	1,663
1856 - -	332	278	29	30	19	9	69	71	82	56	73	33	54	12	658	489	1,147
1857 - -	394	338	35	40	20	8	94	83	111	69	71	37	3	1	728	576	1,304

NOTE.—This Return merely shows the Number of Births, Marriages, and Deaths actually registered in the Province; there are, at present, no satisfactory data for estimating the Number of those unregistered.

Compiled from authentic Official Records.

WM. YOUNGHUSBAND,
Chief Secretary.

April, 1858.

Pauperism.

Annexed is a Return of the number of persons relieved by the Destitute Board during the years—

	1856.	1857.
In-door - -	638	406
Out-door - -	1,112	321
Country Dt^{s} - -	82	96
Totals - -	1,832	823

Offences, Misdemeanors, and Litigation.

	1856.	1857.
Number of Convictions in Supreme Court -	85	73
,, of Civil cases do. - - -	129	139
,, of Criminal Trials, Assaults, and Misdemeanors heard and determined at Magistrates' Courts - - -	428	552
,, of cases of Drunkenness do. do. -	1,125	1,184
,, of Informations under Acts of Council do.	1,366	1,593
,, of Civil cases do. do. -	4,201	4,424

No criminal execution took place in South Australia during 1857.

Diseases and Climate.

The numbers of patients admitted into the *Adelaide Hospital*, during the year 1857, were—

	Males.	Females.
Without payment of fees - - -	314	267
With do. do. - - -	73	9
	387	276
Total - - - -	663	

The admissions in 1856 were—

Without payment of fees - - -	283	215
With do. do. - - -	54	5
	337	220
Total - - - -	557	

Of those patients the number who died was—

In 1857 - - - - -	46	16
In 1856 - - - - -	57	26

The average duration of the stay of patients in the hospital was in—

	1856.		1857.	
	M.	*F.*	*M.*	*F.*
In cases of acute disease - -	25	26½	22½	26
,, chronic ,, - -	105½	105½	107	132
The average daily cost of each patient was -	*2s.* 9½*d.*		*2s.* 1½*d.*	

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

	Male.	Female.
The number of patients treated in the *Lunatic Asylum* during the year 1856, was - - - - -	62	47
Of whom there remained in charge on 1st January 1857 -	44	29
The average daily number having been increased by admissions, during 1857, to - - - -	49	35
The number of patients who died during 1856 was -	3	1
„ „ 1857 - - -	8	5
There were discharged during 1856 - - - -	9	20
„ „ 1857 - - - -	19	20

The average daily cost of each patient was—

In 1856 - - - - - - -	1*s.* 9½*d.*
In 1857 - - - - - - -	1*s.* 1½*d.*

Meteorological.

The extreme range of the barometer in Adelaide extended from 30·430 in May to 29·285 in June; the greatest range in any one month having been 0·920 in April, and the least 0·421 in February.

The extremes of temperature varied from 113° in December to 34·5 in September; the greatest diurnal range having been 47° in December and the least 3·2 in March.

Rain fell in Adelaide on 107 days in the year; the total fall having amounted to 20·149 inches. The greatest fall in any one month was 3·894 inches on 18 days in June.

The prevalent winds were S. and S.S.E. in the evening, and N. and N.E. in the morning.

Agriculture.

The extent of land under cultivation exceeded that in the preceding year by 32,542½ acres.

That for 1856 having been 203,423¼ acres.
„ 1857 „ 235,965¾ „

The harvest was by no means so favourable as that of 1856,—the wheat crops having been estimated as averaging only 12 bushels per acre, while that of 1856 was estimated at 18 bushels per acre.

The total comparative declared values of grain and other farm and dairy produce of the Colony, exported in the years 1856 and 1857, were as follows:—

1856.	Articles.	1857.
£ *s.* *d.*		£ *s.* *d.*
	Bacon and Hams - -	24 0 0
2,278 0 0	Butter - - -	3,154 0 0
300 0 0	Cheese - - -	911 0 0
556,570 0 0	Corn and Meal - -	756,051 0 0
169 0 0	Hay - - - -	2,969 0 0
704 19 0	Onions - - -	938 0 0
377 5 0	Potatoes - - -	155 0 0
558,399 4 0		764,202 0 0

The following were the Adelaide prices of

—	Flour, per Ton.	Wheat, per Bushel.	Oats, per Bushel.	Barley, per Bushel.	Potatoes, per Ton.	Hay, per Ton.
1856	25*l.* to 22*l.*	9*s.* 6*d.* to 7*s.*	4*s.* 6*d.* to 7*s.*	3*s.* 6*d.* to 5*s.* 6*d.*	9*l.* to 22*l.*	50*s.* to 70*s.*
1857	15*l.* to 23*l.*	9*s.* to 5*s.*	9*s.* 6*d.* to 6*s.* 6*d.*	4*s.* 6*d.* to 8*s.*	6*l.* 10*s.* to 18*l.*	75*s.* to 140*s.*

The price of bread at Adelaide ranged:

In 1856 from 2½*d.* to 3½*d.* per lb., the average price being 3*d.* per lb.
In 1857 from 2*d.* to 3*d.* per lb., the average price being 2½*d.* per lb.

Crown Lands.

The area of land alienated in the years

1856 / 1857 } was { 187,451 acres, / 177,718 „ } the proportion of purchase-money received in each year being { 237,500*l.* 3*s.* / 215,076*l.* 8*s.*

The land revenue actually received or due, arising from the sources named below, was as follows:—

1856.	Source of Revenue.	1857.
£ s. d. 237,500 0 0	Land Sales - - -	215,076 8 0
17,542 0 0	Rental under Pastoral Leases - - -	17,854 9 0
2,574 5 11	Depasturing and other Licences, and Miscellaneous Receipts -	3,485 10 9
257,616 5 11		236,416 7 9

The total area of land, without the hundreds held under leases, granted up to 1st July 1857, is - - - - - - 24,737 square miles.
To this may be added the area granted under leases within the hundreds to same date - - - - - - - 1,399 „

Making the total area leased 26,136 square miles.

Stock.

The number of stock in the Colony on the 31st December 1857 was estimated as

2,075,805 sheep and lambs.
310,400 cattle.
26,220 horses.

Immigration and Emigration.

	1856.	1857.
The number of arrivals at Port Adelaide was -	15,418	9,086
The number of departures - - -	5,577	3,440
Showing an increase to the population by this means of - - - - -	9,841	5,646

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

The number of Immigrants arriving in the Colony at the public expense was as follows:

—	ENGLISH.		SCOTCH.		IRISH.		TOTALS.		
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	—
1856	2,288	1,371	114	120	433	351	2,335	1,842	4,177
1857	1,471	1,055	91	73	860	415	2,422	1,543	3,967

Revenue and Expenditure.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of the REVENUE and EXPENDITURE of the Colonial Government of SOUTH AUSTRALIA (inclusive of Land and Emigration Commissioner's Accounts).

	Year ended 31st Dec. 1857.			Year ended 31st Dec. 1856.		
REVENUE.						
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Sales of Crown Lands	220,984	7	0	231,023	0	0
Customs	151,667	4	11	152,135	19	3
Harbour Dues	1,982	7	8	2,048	4	1
Rents	21,523	9	9	20,790	2	0
Licences	12,794	15	0	11,222	15	0
Postage	10,353	18	4	8,925	11	6
Fines, Fees, and Forfeitures	15,299	15	11	16,112	3	5
Sales of Government Property	2,876	7	8	2,905	1	9
Reimbursements-in-aid	5,109	13	5	2,268	16	11
Miscellaneous Receipts	1,771	10	11	3,284	16	9
Interest, Exchange, &c.	3,816	3	7	2,262	12	10
Gold Revenue	—			9	11	8
Port Elliot and Goolwa Railway	2,176	15	7	2,646	8	2
Telegraphs	1,169	9	5	366	6	7
	451,525	19	2	456,001	9	11
Transfer Immigration Fund to Crown Moiety	—			60,000	0	0
Repayment of expenses chargeable to Immigration Fund	—			413	12	1
Balances from previous quarters and years	263,935	3	5	207,127	7	11
	715,461	2	7	723,542	9	11
EXPENDITURE.						
Establishments, including Schedule A, Parts 1 and 2, viz. :—						
Salaries, fixed	108,756	3	1	101,723	16	4
Salaries, provisional and temporary	9,171	7	10	8,738	6	4
Allowances	3,343	16	7	3,021	10	11
Contingencies	55,303	10	0	62,387	15	1
Pensions, Retired Allowances, and Gratuities	1,447	15	0	1,239	2	0
Public Works, Buildings, and Improvements	214,190	16	2	180,568	2	9
Miscellaneous Services	51,275	12	3	16,766	14	8
Interest on, and Redemption of Loans for Public Works	32,597	0	0	19,500	0	0
Interest, Exchange, &c.	97	4	7	219	9	9
Immigration	4,051	8	6	5,028	16	7
	480,234	14	0	399,193	14	5
Transfer of Crown Moiety to Immigration Fund	—			60,000	0	0
Remittances to Land and Emigration Commissioners	10,000	0	0	—		
Repayment to Ordinary Revenue	—			413	12	1
	490,234	14	0	459,607	6	6
Balance in hand on last day of year	225,226	8	7	263,935	3	5
	715,461	2	7	723,542	9	11

Public Loan Account.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of RECEIPTS and EXPENDITURE, on Account of Loans for Public Works of the Colonial Government of SOUTH AUSTRALIA, during the Quarter and Year ended 31st December 1857.

	Quarter ended 31st Dec. 1857.	Quarter ended 31st Dec. 1856.	Year ended 31st Dec. 1857.	Year ended 31st Dec. 1856.
RECEIPTS.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Loans—				
City and Port Railway - -	—	—	—	36,000 0 0
Gawler Town Railway -	—	71,550 0 0	85,100 0 0	164,900 0 0
Port Adelaide Harbour Trust -	—	—	10,000 0 0	7,000 0 0
City Water Supply and Drainage	30,500 0 0	—	179,700 0 0	—
	30,500 0 0	71,550 0 0	274,800 0 0	207,900 0 0
Balance of Loan Account from previous quarter and year -	30,550 8 3	—	—	—
Balance due to to Treasurer on last day of quarter and year -	—	44,413 14 7	—	44,413 14 7
	61,050 8 3	115,963 14 7	274,800 0 0	252,313 14 7
EXPENDITURE.				
Balance due to Treasurer from previous quarters and years -	—	35,374 2 9	44,413 14 7	31,771 4 10
City and Port Railway - -	355 5 0	5,000 0 0	3,078 7 9	52,371 12 2
Gawler Town Railway - -	14,440 5 6	73,589 11 10	107,204 12 2	158,170 17 7
Port Adelaide Harbour Trust -	—	2,000 0 0	38,848 7 9	7,500 0 0
City Water Supply and Drainage	—	—	35,000 0 0	2,500 0 0
	14,795 10 6	115,963 14 7	228,545 2 3	252,313 14 7
Balance of Loan Account on last day of quarter and year	46,254 17 9	—	46,254 17 9	—
	61,050 8 3	115,963 14 7	274,800 0 0	252,313 14 7

Audit Office, Adelaide, 8th February 1858. W. L. O'HALLORAN, Auditor-General.

Imports and Exports.

The values of articles imported and exported during the years 1856 and 1857 were as follows:—

Imports.

	1856. £ s. d.	1857. £ s. d.
Total value of, other than bullion or coin -	1,363,393 2 6	1,547,652 5 0
Imports re-exported - - - -	267,373 4 4	214,388 0 0
Imports, *consumed in Colony* - -	1,096,019 18 2	1,333,264 5 0

Exports.

	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Total value of, other than bullion or coin -	1,577,572 8 5	1,925,790 0 0
Imports re-exported - - -	267,373 4 4	214,388 0 0
Exports, *produce of Colony* - -	1,310,199 4 1	1,711,402 0 0

In order, however, to arrive at the gross import and export totals, the following values of bullion and coin imported and exported must be added:

		1856. £ s. d.	1857. £ s. d.
Bullion and coin	Imported -	3,136 10 4	75,400 0 0
	Exported -	88,168 0 0	32,782 0 0

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

making the value of the

	1856. £	s.	d.	1857. £	s.	d.
Total imports -	1,366,529	12	10	1,623,052	5	0
„ exports -	1,665,740	8	5	1,958,572	0	0

Of the above stated values of produce of Colony, the principal items (other than those classed under farm produce and herein-before quoted under head "Agriculture") appear by the Customs Returns to have been

	1856. £	s.	d.	1857. £	s.	d.
Animals, Horses - - -	140	0	0	930	0	0
Bark - - - -	2,345	0	0	3,162	0	0
Hides and Skins - - -	727	0	0	2,557	0	0
Metals, Copper - - -	248,460	0	0	290,739	0	0
„ Copper Ore - - -	156,351	0	0	141,285	0	0
„ Lead - - - -	377	0	0	23,855	0	0
Regulus - - - -	2,854	0	0	2,960	0	0
Plants and Seeds - - -	306	8	0	1,474	0	0
Tallow - - - -	1,242	0	0	316	0	0
Wine - - - -	156	0	0	531	0	0
Wool - - - - -	412,163	0	0	504,520	0	0

Shipping.

The number and tonnage of vessels entered inwards and outwards was as follows:—

	Great Britain.		British Colonies.		Foreign States.		Total.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
1856 Inwards - -	67	39,079	307	59,457	23	8,205	397	106,741
„ Outwards - -	18	7,397	332	79,337	36	17,476	386	104,210
1857 Inwards - -	71	39,411	327	59,958	16	6,941	414	106,310
„ Outwards - -	15	7,269	342	75,541	47	23,888	404	106,591

Education.

The number of licensed schools and teachers has increased from 147, with 6,833 pupils, at close of 1856, to 166, with 7,407 pupils, at close of 1857.

The cost of the education of those children averaged per head (official salaries included),

in 1856 £2 15*s* 9¾*d.* per head.
in 1857 £2 18*s.* 4¼*d.* „

of which the Government has contributed

in 1856 £1 10*s.* 3¼*d.* „
in 1857 £1 10*s.* 2¾*d.* „

and the friends of the children

in 1856 £1 5*s.* 6½*d.* „
in 1857 £1 8*s.* 1½*d.* „

The total sum expended by the Government for educational purposes was

in 1856 £12,230 0*s.* 7*d.*
in 1857 £12,861 2*s.* 0*d.*

The number of private unlicensed schools has never been accurately ascertained; but taken at 2-5ths of the whole number of schools it is estimated that in 1856 10,830 children, or about 8.5 of the entire population, were receiving education within the province, which number is believed to have increased in 1857 to 12,865 children, or about 8.818 of the population.

Postal.

The following Table exhibits the Post Office Business during 1857:—

No. of Post Offices.	Letters.		Newspapers.		Total.	
	Ship.	Inland.	Ship.	Inland.	Letters.	Papers.
110	299,618	634,932	307,975	541,971	934,550	849,946

The Post Office Revenue was - - £10,353 18*s.* 4*d.*
And the Expenditure - - - £17,984 18*s.* 0*d.**

* This Amount includes 13 Months' Salaries and 5 Quarters' Payment on account of Contracts.

Public Works.

The sum expended in 1856, through the Department of the Colonial Architect, on public works, buildings, &c., amounted to 62,030*l.* 0*s.* 9*d.*; but the total outlay of the Colony under that head was 335,313*l.* 5*s.* 11*d.*

For further details, and for reports of progress of various works in course of execution, see Report on Public Works Department annexed hereto.

LUNATIC ASYLUM.

RETURN of the NUMBER of LUNATICS treated in the above Institution, showing the Sum Received for Fees, Amount of Expenditure for Medicines, Medical Comforts, Provisions and Light, Bedding, Clothing, and Sundries, from 1st January to 31st December 1857.

CLASS OF DISEASES.	Remaining in Asylum 31st December 1856.				Since admitted								Daily Average Number of Lunatics during the Period.		Fees received in	Amount received as Fees.	Amount of Expenditure for				Total Amount.	REMARKS.
					Without Payment of Fees.				On Payment of Fees.								Medicines.	Medical Comforts.	Provisions and Light.	Bedding, Clothing, and Sundries.		
	Without Payment of Fees.		On Payment of Fees.		Admissions.		Deaths.		Admissions.		Deaths.											
	M.	F.	M.	F	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
Demenia - -	7	2	1	–	8	4	2	1	1	1	–	1	–	–	Jan.	9 8 0		33 18 0	90 13 5	12 6 6	136 17 11	
„ senilis -	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	1	–	–	Feb.	27 10 0		34 11 6	78 6 3	- - -	112 17 9	
Mania - -	22	18	3	1	10	19	4	2	3	5	1	–	–	–	March	10 9 0		36 18 6	82 8 4	88 0 7	207 7 5	
„ puerperal -	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	April	10 10 0		28 18 8	76 1 6	68 9 2	173 9 4	
„ suicidal -	–	–	–	–	1	-	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	May	13 6 0		28 10 9	92 18 5	12 0 3	133 9 5	
															June	23 2 0	Received	27 7 10	91 4 11	26 0 0	144 12 9	
															July	40 15 0	from	29 0 2	97 17 3	49 0 0	175 17 5	
Monomania - -	9	7	–	–	6	1	1	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	Aug.	34 2 0	Adelaide	27 1 11	96 18 7	25 18 8	149 19 2	
															Sept.	16 5 0	Hospital	24 16 4	102 11 0	28 4 8	155 12 0	
															Oct.	17 2 0	during the	28 11 8	108 3 6	66 12 0	203 7 2	
Melancholia -	1	1	–	–	–	3	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	Nov.	16 9 0	year.	22 16 9	105 13 9	8 13 8	137 4 2	
															Dec.	14 7 0	84 0 0	25 0 10	108 2 11	7 19 0	225 2 9	
TOTAL -	40	28	4	1	25	27	7	3	4	9	1	2	49	35		233 5 0	84 0 0	347 12 11	1,130 19 10	393 4 6	1,955 17 3	

		Annual Cost of each Patient.	Daily average Cost of each Patient.
Deduct cost of rations for 12 servants - - -	216 0 0		
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Total Cost for Lunatics - - -	1,739 17 3	20 14 3	0 1 1½

Adelaide, South Australia, 18th January 1858.

WILLIAM POPE, Superintendent of Lunatic Asylum.

ADELAIDE HOSPITAL.

RETURN of the NUMBER of PATIENTS treated in the above Institution, showing the Sum received for Fees, Amount of Expenditure for Medicines, Medical Comforts, Provisions and Light, Bedding, Clothing, and Sundries, from 1st January to 31st December 1857.

DISEASES.	Remaining in Hospital 31st Dec. 1856.		Since admitted				Average duration of stay in Hospital.		Daily average Number in Hospital during the period.		Fees received in	Amount received as Fees.	Amount of Expenditure for				Total Amount.	REMARKS.
			Without Payment of Fees.		On Payment of Fees.								Medicines.	Medical Comforts.	Provisions and Light.	Bedding, Clothing, and Sundries.		
	Without Payment of Fees.	On Payment of Fees.	Admissions.	Deaths.	Admissions.	Deaths.												
	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M.	F.	M.	F.								
Fevers	4 3	– –	15 20	3 –	2 –	– –	–	–	–	–		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
Eruptive Fevers	– –	– –	– –	– –	– –	– –	–	–	–	–	Jan.	23 6 0	40 14 8	56 12 1	76 1 3	102 6 8	275 14 8	
Diseases of Lungs	6 5	– –	36 21	11 4	5 1	3 1	–	–	–	–	Feb.	18 16 0	190 18 3	63 2 3	84 16 4	37 10 6	376 7 4	
„ of Liver	1 1	– –	12 3	2 –	2 1	1 1	–	–	–	–	Mar.	16 0 0	23 16 4	77 12 1	129 15 7	244 18 1	476 2 1	
„ of Stomach and Bowels.	2 4	– –	23 23	3 2	9 –	– –	–	–	–	–	April	15 17 6	21 4 6	30 18 3	113 0 4	53 4 4	218 7 5	
											May	39 2 0	14 8 3	59 2 7	135 12 2	61 15 3	270 18 3	
Epidemic Cholera	– –	– –	–	– –	– –	– –	–	–	–	–	June	27 1 0	19 11 6	45 11 0	141 1 11	74 0 11	280 5 4	
Diseases of Brain and Nervous System.	– 1	– 1	12 15	4 2	– –	1 –	–	–	–	–	July	44 4 0	22 0 6	65 7 6	147 12 8	35 6 6	270 7 2	
											Aug.	20 0 0	27 3 6	84 7 5	150 12 4	39 5 3	301 8 6	
Dropsies	– 1	– –	7 3	4 1	3 1	1 1	–	–	–	–	Sept.	21 14 0	37 13 4	72 5 5	154 9 8	86 4 2	350 12 7	
Rheumatic Affections	4 4	2 –	46 18	– –	13 –	– –	–	–	–	–	Oct.	40 12 0	61 2 3	68 4 7	154 19 6	34 8 0	318 14 4	
Venereal do.	3 –	1 –	5 2	– –	7 1	– –	–	–	–	–	Nov.	24 3 0	31 11 10	65 5 10	150 17 3	29 0 8	276 15 7	
Abscesses and Ulcers	8 6	1 –	27 34	3 1	6 2	– –	–	–	–	–	Dec.	20 2 0	76 0 0	67 8 9	133 11 10	35 9 10	312 10 5	
Wounds and Injuries	4 1	1 –	51 24	4 –	10 –	1 –	–	–	–	–								
Diseases of Eyes	3 –	– –	13 16	– –	1 –	– –	–	–	–	–								
„ Skin	– –	– –	3 3	– –	2 –	– –	–	–	–	–	Add cost of Medicines received from England.		464 16 0	– –	– –	– –	464 16 0	
All other Diseases	3 13	– –	26 46	5 3	8 2	– –	–	–	–	–								
TOTAL	38 39	5 1	276 228	39 13	68 8	7 3	43	54	47	41		310 17 6	1031 0 11	755 17 9	1572 10 10	833 10 2	4192 19 8	

		No. of Days. M.	F.
Average Duration of Stay in Hospital	Acute Diseases	22½	26
	Chronic Diseases	107	132

Deduct probable cost of Medicines supplied from this Institution to the following Establishments :—								
Lunatic Asylum	84	0	0					
Police and Sappers	50	0	0					
Her Majesty's Gaol	80	0	0					
Medical Officer, Port Lincoln	8	0	0					
Do. Dry Creek	11	0	0					
Destitute Poor. In and Out-door Patients	150	0	0					
Cost of Rations for 20 Servants at Adelaide Hospital	360	0	0	743	0	0		
Total Cost, Adelaide Hospital				3449	19	8	39 4 1	0 2 1½

Annual Cost of each Patient. Daily Average Cost of each Patient.

Adelaide, South Australia, 18th January 1858.

WILLIAM POPE, Colonial Surgeon.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

Enclosure 5 in No. 34.

Enclosure 5 in No. 34.

REPORT by the COMMISSIONER of PUBLIC WORKS on the various Government Undertakings executed during the Half Year ended December 1857, including those of the Central Road Board.

SIR, Public Works Office, 24th July 1858.

I HAVE the honor to forward, for the information of his Excellency the Governor-in-Chief, a report on the Public Works of the province for the half year ended December 31st, 1857.

A reduced staff in the department of the Colonial Architect, and a great press of business out of doors, have, to a great extent, prevented that officer from furnishing at an earlier period the necessary details connected with the works under his charge. Considerable difficulty has also been experienced in procuring information from district councils, so as to include herein an outline of their operations. These causes have rendered unavoidable the long delay which has taken place in forwarding this report.

Before entering into the details connected with each branch of the works subject to this department, it is satisfactory to be able to state that the progress of permanent improvements in the province during 1857 has been considerable. The development of the telegraphic and railway systems has realized the expectations which had been formed with respect to them, and the extension of the main lines of road have been steady, although, when the large expenditure which annually takes place upon these channels of communication is taken into consideration, the amount of permanent benefit which results to the province seems very disproportionate.

The deepening operations of the harbor trust are steadily prosecuted; and it is hoped that before long vessels of large draught of water will be able to cross the bar without difficulty or delay. With reference to the waterworks, it can only be said that they are proceeding gradually to their completion; inasmuch as the practical value of the work performed will not be susceptible of proof until the whole undertaking has been brought to a close. The extension of the railway to Gawler Town has been accomplished, and a sum of 2,491*l.* 16*s.* 5*d.* paid into the treasury, being balance of profit after paying all working expenses on the Port and Gawler lines. The financial results of the present year will, it is expected, not be less than 6,000*l.* sterling. It is unnecessary to do more than refer to the traffic receipts of the Port Elliott and Goolwa tramway, as no new work in connexion with that establishment has been undertaken during the past half year.

The subjoined outlines of the proceedings of each department will doubtless be interesting.

Harbor Trust.

It is not easy to give a precise idea of the progress of the harbor trustees in clearing the river at Port Adelaide without a map. A description of their operations must therefore be rendered in general terms only.

The most important event in their proceedings has been the completion of the new steam dredge and barges in October last. After numerous tests and trials, the capability of this machine for ripping up the limestone crust in the bar was found satisfactory; in some cases penetrating and removing the limestone to a thickness of three feet.

The operations of the new dredge have been directed, since the early part of December, with considerable success, towards cutting a channel through the outer bar, the silt thus raised being deposited about 500 yards north-west of the entrance to the harbor. About 3,292 tons had been removed at the end of the year. The total amount of silt raised during the half year is 71,426½ tons, which has been generally landed so as to be available for the improvement of the streets of Port Adelaide.

A ballast wharf has been completed on the Government reserve, Le Fevre's Peninsula, and it being near the workshops the board's operations are considerably facilitated. The total receipts of the trust during the year have been—balance in hand,9,497*l.* 19*s.* 7*d.*, received from Government 11,303*l.* 7*s.* 9*d.*, from other sources 832*l.* 6*s.* 6*d.*; making 21,633*l.* 13*s.* 10*d.* The expenditure has been 15,702*l.* 4*s.* 2*d.*; 783*l.* 15*s.* 5*d.* has been paid to Government in the shape of harbor dues; and 5,931*l.* 9*s.* 8*d.* remained in the bank on the 31st December.

Waterworks.

The operations during the past half year have comprised the commencement of the river weir, the contract for which was let to Messrs. Frost and Watson for about 3,000*l.*; the tail dam, undertaken by the same parties, at 414*l.*; and the dam head of the reservoir, let to Mr. A. A. Gouge, at prices which will bring the cost to about 20,000*l.*

Other contracts, but of minor importance, have been entered into and completed during the same period, including fencing, casting iron pipes, building a cottage at the reservoir, making bricks, drain-pipes, &c. The contract for the last-mentioned articles which had been entered into has been rescinded, and will probably not be renewed until the plans for drainage are in a state of maturity.

The expenditure of the Waterworks Commissioners during the year 1857 amounted to 17,778*l.* 10*s.* 1*d.* As soon as the dam head, reservoir, &c. have been completed, the laying of the pipes (part of which have already arrived from England) will be commenced, and it is expected that the works will be in a sufficiently forward state to bring the water into the city towards the middle of 1859.

Colonial Architect.

The works performed under this officer's superintendence are so various and numerous that it is scarcely possible to do more than to append a list of them, with a statement of the cost of each.

With respect to the Glenelg Jetty, it may be remarked that a greatly increased expense has been necessarily incurred in consequence of the imperfect state of the structure as sent to this colony, and the bad quality of the materials used in its construction.

The total expenditure of this department for the year is 66,000*l.*, leaving a large balance for new works to be carried out in 1858.

Magnetic Telegraph.

At the beginning of the past year there were only ten and a half miles of line open. At the close of 1857 there were ninety-four miles, with the line to the border rapidly approaching completion. The Gawler Line (twenty-nine and a half miles) was commenced in the middle of January, and was opened on the 14th of April 1857. The South-east Line was begun in April, and was opened to Goolwa in November. The working of these lines show encouraging results; they are not only capable of being self-supporting, but of yielding a good return on the outlay. The number of messages is more than double the number of those received in 1856, while the receipts have increased from 366*l.* to 1,183*l.* The telegraph department has been conducted satisfactorily, and the energy shown by Mr. Todd is most indefatigable.

Railways.

The operations on both lines during the latter end of 1857 were simply confined to the finishing of works in hand at the end of the first half year, and that from want of money for new works nothing was done beyond completing the line, then open to Smithfield, to its parliamentary terminus at Gawler Town.

The line to Levi's Wharf has not been laid down over the temporary bridge. This would have been finished some time back but for the non-arrival of some long timber from Melbourne. The expense of alteration and movement of the line will be thus avoided.

On the North Line the works for the completion of the railway to Gawler Town were so far advanced in September as to allow of opening the whole length of line on October 5th, since which time it has continued in an efficient and safe state for working.

	£	s.	d.
The gross profit on the working of the Port Line in 1857 was - -	3,002	14	11
Loss on North Line - - - - -	610	18	6
	£2,491	16	5

The profit on the working of the railways during 1858 is expected to be about 6,000*l.*

Central Road Board.

The report furnished by the Road Board may be described as a list in extenso of all the contracts and different works let or undertaken by them, of which the particulars are subjoined.

The progress of the main road system during the period under review may be described as being as satisfactory as could be expected under present circumstances; although it is to be regretted that there are no means afforded of contrasting the works executed this year with those performed during preceding years.

The following is a condensed statement of the works performed during 1857.

North District.—Made new road 4 miles 14 roods 50 chains, at a total cost of 7,418*l.* 7*s.* 7*d.*, or averaging 1,774*l.* per mile; and 35 miles 41 roods 50 chains repaired at a total cost of 10,335*l.* 3*s.* 8*d.*, or an average of 291*l.* per mile. Total expenditure, 17,753*l.* 11*s.* 3*d.* General condition of roads pretty good, except Port Road.

North-East District.—Made new road 5 miles 78 roods 75 chains, at an average cost of 1,848*l.* per mile; repairs, 47 miles 60 chains at an average cost of 150*l.* per mile. Total expenditure, 26,054*l.* 8*s.* 8*d.*

South-Eastern District.—Made new road 7 miles 42 chains, at 15,047*l.* 8*s.* 10*d.* or 2,000*l.* per mile. Repairs, 20 miles at 337*l.* per mile. Total expenditure, 36,965*l.* 1*s.* 1*d.* State of roads good.

South District.—Made new road 6 miles 20 yards, at an average cost of 1,672*l.* per mile. 170*l.* per mile for repairs. Total expenditure, 24,787*l.* 4*s.* 11*d.* State of roads generally good.

The amount expended on public works in 1857 was 107,233*l.* 1*s.* 6*d.* Salaries, office, and incidental expenses and contingencies, 6,333*l.* 18*s.* 1*d.*

District Councils.

Although these institutions are not subordinate to nor under the direct control of this department, their connexion therewith as district road commissions affords reason for including some notice of them in this report.

As their operations are scattered over a very wide extent of country, and their works, although numerous, generally on a small scale, it would not be possible within reasonable limits to remark upon the operations of each. It will be observed that the amount expended in salaries and office expenses is equal to about one seventh of the sum spent on public improvement. This may to a great extent be attributed to the multiplication of district councils, the effect of whichis to increase only the expenses of management, without adding anything to the value or quantity of rateable property. It is hoped, however, that the year 1858 will show more satisfactory results, inasmuch as according to the resolution of the House of Assembly the measure of Government aid is the amount devoted exclusively to public improvements. I cannot, however, refrain from recording my conviction that it is generally undesirable to allow of the multiplication of small district councils. With respect to the table itself, I regret to state that I cannot place it before you as being absolutely correct. Every means has been taken in this department to verify the particulars relative to each council contained therein; but as out of forty-three district councils a large number of the returns furnished have been imperfect and occasionally contradictory, and have exhibited defects which it was not in my power to remedy or correct, the table cannot be looked upon as more than an approximation to the truth. There is no doubt that it is sufficiently correct for general purposes, but it cannot exhibit that minute accuracy which ought to characterise public statistics. While upon this subject I cannot

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

avoid remarking, that other transactions of district councils with this department are managed in a way no less careless; and the large sum spent by the districts on salaries, &c. appears more disproportionate still when the loose way in which their business is managed is taken into account. I have entered somewhat fully into this matter in the hope that attention will be drawn to the subject, and proper remedies applied by the councils themselves.

I have, &c.
ARTHUR BLYTH,
Commissioner of Public Works.

The Honorable the Chief Secretary.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

No. 35.

No. 35.

COPY of DESPATCH from Governor KENNEDY to the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE, M. P.

(No. 56.)

Government House, Perth, May 13, 1858.

SIR, (Received July 20, 1858.)

I HAVE the honour to transmit the duplicate Blue Book for the year 1857, and to offer the following remarks thereon.

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

2. The actual revenue for 1857 amounted to 40,923*l.* 3*s.* 2*d.*, against an expenditure of 45,002*l.* 18*s.* 4*d.* The estimated revenue amounted to 51,000*l.*, and the estimated expenditure to 51,060*l.*

3. The actual revenue in 1856 amounted to 50,227*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*, and the actual expenditure for the same year amounted to 46,990*l.*

4. It will thus appear that there was a falling off in the revenue of 1857, as compared with 1856, of 9,304*l.* 10*s.* 2*d.*, while there was a decreased expenditure in 1857, as compared with 1856, of 1,988*l.*

5. It is necessary that I should offer some explanation of the deficiency of actual revenue received in 1857 as compared with that estimated.

6. Taking a comprehensive view of the transactions of the year, it will be observed that there is a gross deficiency of revenue as compared with the estimate of 10,000*l.*, the whole of which may in general terms be attributed to the defalcation of the Customs receipts; 8,000 of this arose as follows:

Surplus quantity of spirits taken out of bond in 1856 beyond the requirements of the year to evade the increased duty under new tariff; duty value	£ 4,742
Tobacco in same manner - - - - - - - -	2,142
Wines - - - - - - - - -	150
	£ 7,034
Excessive estimate on tobacco - - - - -	978
	£ 8,012

The deficiency in the duties on tea, sugar, and ad valorem goods, will account for the remainder.

7. A careful consideration and comparison of the figures in the Blue Book for 1856 and 1857 will show that the deficiency in the latter year has not been caused by any decrease of consumption, but resulted from the measures adopted in 1856, when the tariff was raised on all imported goods, more especially upon spirits. This occasioned a complete clearance of the bonded stores of all imported goods, to evade the increased duties imposed by the new tariff, which came into operation in the month of August of that year.

8. It is unnecessary to comment upon the expenditure for 1857, which has been kept within the narrowest limits which the peculiar circumstances of the colony would permit, and has been as above shown 1,988*l.* less than that of 1856.

May 3, 1858. Enclosure.

9. In corroboration of the views I have expressed as to the cause of the deficiency of revenue, and although it may not be strictly regular, I beg to append a comparative statement of the revenue received in the years 1857 and 1858 during the four months ending respectively on the 30th April 1857 and 30th April 1858. This Return shows indications of progress and prosperity, in every way most satisfactory, and exhibits an increase of revenue in the first four months of 1858 as compared with 1857 of 4,308*l.*

10. With the exception of harbour dues, which I am of opinion were over estimated to the full amount of the deficiency, land sales affected by the discussion of the proposed new regulations to reduce the price of crown lands, and post office revenue somewhat decreased by alterations directed by the Postmaster General in England, the other heads of revenue afford favourable indications of prosperity, more particularly the land revenue, which exceeds the estimate by a sum of 730*l.* Whether a comparison of the revenue received in 1857 be made with the estimates or with the revenue received in 1856, I think it is evident, as before stated, that the revenue of 1856 was enhanced, and that of 1857 depreciated, by the quantity of goods taken out of bond in June and July 1856 to avoid the increased tariff.

11. I may, in connexion with this part of the subject, state that considerable depression to the trading interest in 1857 arose from the then existing uncertainty of the continuance or extent of transportation to this colony.

12. The public debt of the colony amounts to 11,043*l.* 15*s.* 7*d.*, showing an increase upon the year 1856 of 2,356*l.* It must be remarked, however, that 1,296*l.* of this increase consists of sums due in the years 1855 and 1856 to Her Majesty's Government and to the Agent General, but not included in the amount of public debt in the Blue Book for the year 1856, in consequence of not having been at that time brought to account; and further, that an extraordinary expenditure which occurred in the year 1857 of 500*l.* for a printing press, and which will probably be covered by the saving on account of the public printing for the year 1858, prevented the application in the year 1857 of a like sum to the liquidation of the public debt. The deduction of these two sums (1,296*l.* and 500*l.*) will reduce the apparent increase from 2,356*l.* to 360*l.* I may perhaps be permitted to add that the increase in the revenue during the first four months of the year 1858, referred to in paragraph 9 of this Despatch, enabled me, in the month of April 1858, to remit a sum of 1,000*l.* to the Agent General, in reduction of the amount due to him, and that the debt of 1,326*l.* to the Western Australian Bank at the close of the year 1857 was paid off in January 1858, since which no further loan has been necessary.

Public Works.

13. No public work of importance has been undertaken during the year. The repairs of the immense extent of bad roads and temporary bridges throughout the colony have absorbed the sum of 2,200*l.* The Fremantle and Champion Bay landing jetties have been nearly completed. Large quantities of stone for metalling have been raised by convict labour, but funds are wanted to cart it out upon the roads.

Population.

14. The returns show that the population is nearly stationary. Considerable numbers of the free population and conditionally pardoned convicts continue to leave the colony, and are replaced by free emigrants and probation prisoners from England. The comparative certainty which now exists as to the probable accession of both these classes has already produced most salutary results, and I am in a position to know that many emigrants who have foolishly left this colony, in the hope of bettering themselves elsewhere, would gladly return were the means at their disposal. While the temptation of gold-fields exists this migration must be expected to continue.

Imports and Exports.

15. The value of imports in 1857 has decreased by the sum of 28,406*l.*, which I attribute mainly to increased home protection, more especially in the articles of butter, cheese, bacon, hams, meat, fruit, wine, beer, and breadstuffs; while the exports have *increased* by a sum of 16,038*l.*, principally lead, timber, wool, and potatoes. The exports are steadidly on the increase.

Shipping.

16. The amount of tonnage is largely increased, mainly by the mail steamers now calling at King George's Sound.

Agriculture.

17. This important and principal interest is, I believe, in the soundest and most progressive state; horses, cattle, sheep, and pigs, steadily increasing, and the cultivators of land re-investing their profits in more extended operations. The increased production and consumption of breadstuffs is indicated by the erection of four new steam mills within the year, in one of which I am informed 17,000 bushels of wheat were ground within the year.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

MINES AND FISHERIES.

18. The copper mines in the northern district are most promising, the ore shipped to England realized 30*l.* per ton. Copper and lead abound in the northern district, and I have every hope of seeing ample capital ere long applied to the development of these valuable and natural resources.

19. The coast abounds in good fish, and whale fishing is highly remunerative.

20. I cannot ascertain, nor do I believe, that any specimens of gold have been found in the colony. Assertions to that effect have been made, but on no reliable authority that I can discover. I have no reason therefore to concur in the belief expressed that "gold will eventually be found in Western Australia to a large extent."

LAND SALES.

21. The amount received under this head during the year 1857 was 2,199*l.* against 3,483*l.* received in 1856. It cannot be expected that these sales will keep up without some accession of population and capital.

22. I am of opinion that the Land Sales for 1857 have been prejudiced to the extent of 1,000*l.* at least, by the anticipated reduction in the price of crown lands from 20*s.* per acre to 5*s.*, the natural result of which has been to suspend the operations of intending cash purchasers. Mineral sections of land in the Victoria district have been purchased to some considerable extent.

23. Many tillage leases have been taken out instead of the land being purchased, to enable the lessees to take advantage of the pre-emptive right of purchasing in the event of the price of land being reduced.

LAND REVENUE.

24. The Land Revenue shows an increase of 730*l.* on the receipts of 1856. The increase under this head tends to decrease the land sales, and the advantages of pre-emptive right of purchase conferred upon the leaseholders, is in my opinion calculated to retard the permanent occupation and improvement of the country. The increase, however, indicates the growing requirements of the graziers.

POSTAGES.

Jan. 15, 1858. Encl. 2.

25. The alterations established in the regulations in connection with the overland mail and other circumstances detailed in the accompanying letter from the Postmaster-General of this colony account for the apparent falling off.

ROTTNEST FARM.

26. This establishment is worked in the most satisfactory manner, and will I feel confident during the ensuing year prove more than entirely self-supporting. It affords the only effective or humane means of checking native crime.

LEGISLATION.

27. There is nothing under this head calling for any remark, beyond the general explanations which accompanied the Ordinances when transmitted for approval.

EDUCATION.

28. The public schools to which Government aid is granted are conducted, as nearly as local circumstances will permit, on the system of the Irish National Board, superintended by a board of gentlemen appointed by the Governor. The system works well, and affords general satisfaction. The annual report of the Board is in the printer's hands, and will be transmitted.

JUDICIAL.

29. I think the constitution of the Courts is inadequate to the requirements of the colony.

POLICE.

30. The force for the whole of this extended territory consists at present of 1 acting superintendent, 8 serjeants, 2 corporals, 24 mounted, 26 foot constables, with 13 native assistants. It is sufficient to say of their efficiency that crime of any degree seldom goes undetected.

CLERGY.

31. The ready sanction of Her Majesty's Government for the employment and payment of chaplains, of whatever denomination, for the instruction and guidance of the convict population is a great boon to the whole community.

CRIME.

32. The returns of criminal prosecutions at the General Quarter Sessions during the year 1857 show the following results:—

1 wounding with intent, &c.
1 arson of a dwelling house.
1 rape.
1 attempt at rape.
2 forgeries of bank cheques.
1 robbery from the person.
6 larcenies.
1 receiving stolen goods.
1 assault of the person.

15

33. Of the above, 14 were Europeans, and 1 a Chinaman. Of the 14 Europeans, 10 were conditionally pardoned convicts, 2 ticket-of-leave holders, and 2 free men.

34. Two of the number were executed, 6 adjudged penal servitude from 4 to 8 years, and seven to imprisonment from 6 months to 3 years.

35. A reference to my Annual Report for 1856 will show that in 1855 there were 56 criminals tried, and 7 executed; in 1856 there were 29 criminals of all grades tried before the General Quarter Sessions, while in the year 1857, now reported upon, there were but 15. When these facts are taken in connection with the increased number of convicts and the decreased number of re-convictions to the convict establishment and revoked licences, they afford unmistakeable proof of the success of the system pursued in the reformation of criminals in the establishment, and the efficiency of the means adopted to repress and detect crime when they are liberated. I can confidently reiterate my statement of last year, that "the general security for life and property in this colony equals that in any part of Her Majesty's dominions, and far exceeds that existing in communities of much higher pretensions." It is not only that such security exists, but the public enjoy a full sense of it. Though I have given my earnest attention to this important subject since I assumed the government, I confess the results have far exceeded my expectations, and place me under a substantial obligation to the officers to whose efforts they are attributable.

GENERAL REMARKS.

36. The doubts and uncertainty which existed as to the continuance of transportation to this colony in the early part of 1857, together with the depreciating tone of some leading English journals as to its resources and capabilities for a penal settlement, had an undoubtedly damaging effect upon the progress of the colony, unsettled the public mind, and impeded trade. The last six months of the year have witnessed the development of various resources since the doubt and uncertainty have been dispelled, and justify the belief that the colony has never before been in so sound or progressive a condition. A large quantity of the finest agricultural land has been taken up and occupied in the Victoria district, 500 tons of copper ore have been shipped from the same locality, some of which realized 33*l.* per ton. There is an acknowledged improvement and extension of business of whatever kind. I am informed, on the best authority, that the bank deposits have largely increased, while overdue bills have been still more extensively decreased, and that the profits of the Western Australian Bank from discounts indicate a substantial improvement in the extent and character of mercantile transactions.

37. I have only, in conclusion, to hope that you will find the various contents of the Blue Book for 1857 accurate and satisfactory.

I have, &c.

The Rt. Hon. H. Labouchere, M.P., &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) A. E. KENNEDY,
Governor.

WESTERA AUSTRALIN.

Enclosure 1 in No. 35.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of the REVENUE received in the Years 1857 and 1858, during the four months ending respectively on the 30th of April.

Heads of Service.	1857.			1858.			Increase on 1857.			Decrease.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Customs - - -	4,982	6	1	7,906	13	8	2,924	7	7	—		
Harbour dues - - -	137	9	8	421	1	10	283	12	2	—		
Land sales - - -	568	16	3	1,255	3	6	686	7	3	—		
Land revenue - - -	3,820	16	3	4,323	0	7	502	4	4	—		
Rents, exclusive of land -	33	15	6	31	11	0	-	-	-	2	4	6
Transfer duties - -	55	16	0	51	10	0	-	-	-	4	6	0
Auction duties - -	196	4	1	73	17	7	-	-	-	122	6	4
Licences - - -	1,898	0	0	1,905	2	6	7	2	6	—		
Postages - - -	537	6	4	713	19	11	176	13	7	—		
Fines, forfeitures, &c. - -	330	5	9	259	19	1	-	-	-	70	6	8
Fees of office - - -	132	11	0	105	11	6	-	-	-	26	19	6
Rottnest establishment -	250	0	0	361	4	2	111	4	2	—		
Sale of Government property -	103	11	0	37	16	0	-	-	-	65	16	0
Reimbursements - -	214	1	4	215	16	6	1	5	2	—		
Miscellaneous - - -	14	3	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	14	3	6
Special receipts - -	152	1	6	73	14	10	-	-	-	78	6	8
	£13,427	4	3	17,735	12	8						
				13,427	4	3						
Gross increase on 1857				£4,308	8	5						

Audit Office, Perth, May 3, 1858. W. KNIGHT, Audit General.

Enclosure 2 in No. 35.

General Post Office, Perth,
January 15, 1858.

SIR,

I DO myself the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of yesterday's date, enclosing a memorandum by his Excellency the Governor, upon the Post Office revenue for the last three years, and requesting my remarks thereon.

In reply I beg to state for the Governor's information that the decrease in the receipt of this department for the past year is mainly to be attributed to the measure which came into operation on the 1st of January of that year, for establishing a low and uniform rate of postage between foreign countries and this colony, by the provisions of which the postage on letters received from abroad was entirely abolished.

It must be borne in mind that the convict depôts which were in existence in several of the rural districts, and King George's Sound in 1856, were withdrawn in 1857, causing a considerable falling off in the official correspondence of the commissariat and convict departments, the postage on which was paid by the Imperial Government, and contributed materially to the receipt for 1856.

There is likewise a sum of 250*l.* paid by the commissariat included in the revenue for 1856, which strictly belonged to the previous year, and should therefore have been included in the receipt for 1855.

On the whole the Post Office revenue for the last three years appears to me quite satisfactory, especially that for 1857, when it is taken into account the considerable reductions that have been made in the rates of postage, the thinness of our free population, and also when compared with the receipts of the neighbouring colonies under this head, in the whole of which, notwithstanding the postal improvements effected of late years, the departments in question are conducted at a considerable loss.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. HELMICH,
Postmaster-General.

The Honorable the Colonial Secretary,
&c. &c. &c.

NEW ZEALAND.

[*The Annual Reports from New Zealand for the Years* 1855, 1856 *and* 1857 *have not been received.*]

PART V.

EASTERN COLONIES.

PART V.—EASTERN COLONIES.

CEYLON.

CEYLON.

No. 36.

No. 36.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir H. G. WARD to the Right Honourable Sir EDWARD BULWER LYTTON, Bart.

(No. 3.) Queen's House, Colombo, July 5, 1858.

SIR, (Received August 23, 1858.)

IT is very gratifying to me, at the close of my third year in Ceylon, to be enabled to submit to you proofs that, notwithstanding the disturbances that have prevailed on the neighbouring continent and the financial crisis in Europe, this island has continued to advance in material prosperity, that the revenue has steadily increased, that public tranquillity has been maintained, and that all classes of the population have witnessed with pleasure the progress of those public works which are at once the fruit of successful industry and the best security for its farther development. I cannot too warmly acknowledge the support that every useful measure has received from the councils and the organs of public opinions. The resources of the colony have been applied with remarkable impartiality to objects of general utility. If the demand of the European settlers for improved communications has been liberally met, the interests of the native population with regard to irrigation works have been not less liberally consulted. And it is to this equitable spirit, in a council where the European element so largely predominates, that Her Majesty's Government may attribute, under Providence, the peace and good feeling that have prevailed in this island during the last critical year, and the contentedness of its inhabitants. All have benefited largely by the changes now in progress, and all know that the maintenance of order is the first condition of their continuance.

2. I shall now proceed to bring before you the results of the year 1857, in the form and order observed in my previous despatches.

Finance.

3. The revenue for the year ending 31st December 1857 was, by the accompanying returns, 578,028*l.* 6*s.* 2½*d.* The Revenue for 1856 was 504,178*l.* 18*s.* 4¼*d.*, so that there was a net increase of 73,853*l.* 7*s.* 10¼*d.* in 1857. The revenue of 1856 showed an increase of 27,901*l.* 9s. 5*d.* over that of 1855; and that of 1855 exceeded by 68,231*l.* 18*s.* 6½*d.* the revenue of 1854; so that the annual receipts of the colony have risen in four years from 408,041*l.* 10*s.* 4¾*d.* (in 1854) to 578,028*l.* 6*s.* 2½*d.*; but there has at the same time been a large increase in the expenditure, which amounted in 1854 to 393,267*l.* 18*s.* 0¼*d.* and in 1857 to 535,803*l.* 19*s.* 4½*d.*, exclusive of 17,656*l.* 12*s.* 5½*d.* spent under the Surplus Fund Ordinances.

4. The principal heads of increase are explained in the Memorandum of the Acting Auditor-General, to which the figures in the margin of his statement refer. They consist of:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Customs	7,279	5	1
Land sales	4,296	9	10
Survey fees	1,369	17	2½
Land revenue	3,045	2	5
Tolls (bridges, ferries, roads, &c.)	9,152	15	11¾
Arrack rents	11,428	17	7
Stamps	3,926	0	9
Salt	2,666	0	6¾
Pearl fishery	20,309	17	6

You will remark with satisfaction the large increase in tolls, as showing the utility of the roads and bridges recently opened, while the amount received for land sales and survey fees proves both the continuance of the demand for land and the greater expe-

dition with which the business of the survey department is now conducted. I have had occasion to remark in my correspondence upon the improvement in the salt revenue caused by the adoption of a better system of retailing salt in the Batticaloa district, and the Acting Auditor-General justly ascribes a portion of the increase to the facilities afforded by the Natande Canal for the trade in salt between Putlam and Colombo.

Expenditure.

5. The comparative statement of expenditure in 1856 and 1857 shows an increase in the latter year of 78,666*l.* 13*s.* 11¾*d.*, including "Salaries" and "Establishments" and "Services." The one is the necessary consequence of the other, for there cannot be a large increase in the work done without adding to the means of doing it. You will, therefore, find an addition of 9,256*l.* to "Establishments," principally in the departments of the Civil Engineer* and the Surveyor-General†, and an addition of 69,410*l.* in "Services," which include 61,970*l.* in works, buildings, roads, bridges, materials, and stores, the two last of which appear under the head of colonial commissariat. The charge for "Establishments" also comprehends 2,300*l.* for an extension of the police force, which has been found indispensable, in the central and western provinces, to meet the requirements of the increased commercial movement, for the protection of which the native headmen were quite inadequate, and to fill the gap caused by the departure of troops for India. The new system is working most satisfactorily.

* £3,900.
† £1,600.

Surplus.

6. Notwithstanding these additions to the expenditure, there was a surplus of 42,224*l.* 6*s.* 10*d.* at the close of 1857, to add to former savings, the expenditure being 535,803*l.*, the revenue 578,028*l.* I do not include in this the expenditure provided for under the Surplus Fund Ordinances of 1856, 1857, amounting to 17,656*l.* 12*s.* 5*d.*, as this does not form part of the ordinary outlay, and is not a charge upon the revenue of the year.

Assets and Liabilities.

7. By the very clear statement of assets and liabilities prepared by the Acting Auditor-General, it appears that the balance in favour of the Ceylon Government, after providing for all existing liabilities, on the 1st of January 1857, was 259,638*l.* 5*s.* 11½*d*, and on the 1st of January 1858, 269,856*l.* 17*s.* 1½*d.* From the first of these sums must be deducted 94,683*l.*, being the amount of *old* "*Revenue Debts*" held to be "irrecoverable," or "awaiting the decision of the courts;" and from the second, a sum of 87,954*l.*, being the corresponding item in the accounts of 1857. This leaves 164,955*l.* on the 1st January 1857, and 181,932*l.* on the 1st of January 1858, as the net available balance at the disposal of the Government, in addition to the ordinary revenue of the year. Having stated the surplus revenue of 1857 at 42,224*l.* 6*s.* 10*d.*, this addition to the reserves of the colony may appear smaller than it ought to be. But you will be pleased to recollect that the unexpended balances of the Surplus Fund Ordinances of 1856 and 1857 are included in the "Liabilities," so that the amount now stated is the balance actually in hand, after providing for all previous votes. 50,000*l.* were advanced last year to the Oriental Bank, as a loan, bearing interest at 2½ per cent.; and the Government has agreed to advance 50,000*l.* more, on the same terms, as soon as the deposit of Indian Government Securities to the full amount of the loan is completed. But this leaves an ample margin for works of public utility not provided for out of ordinary revenue during the present financial year.

Surplus Fund Ordinance of 1856, 38,000*l.*
Do. of 1857, 64,000*l.*

Public Works.

8. The abstract of this department shows that the expenditure during the year on roads, bridges, buildings, &c. was 147,174*l.* 4*s.* 10*d.*, including 17,662*l.* 7*s.* 5½*d.* for labour under the Road Ordinance. In the year 1856 the expenditure was 115,908*l.* 15*s.* 9*d.* showing an increase of 21,265*l.* 9*s.* 1*d.* in 1857. Of this sum, 6,646*l.* were expended in opening new roads, 6,991*l.* on new bridges, and 9,557*l.* on new buildings. The upkeep of roads, bridges, and canals involved an outlay of 81,914*l.* The repairs of bridges amounted to 3,217*l.*, of buildings to 13,834*l.*, and the miscellaneous services to 7,654*l.* The principal buildings included in this return are, the new district court*, and the large additions made to the government offices at Colombo†, the new grain shed at the Custom House‡, and the conversion of Sir G. Anderson's market§ into a factory, the machinery for which has arrived, and will shortly be in full operation. The bridges comprise the Gampolle and Peradenia bridges, the cost of the first of

* £2,348. 18. 7.
† £2,766. 12. 8¾.
‡ £1.119. 13. 9¼.
§ £1,417. 16. 9.

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which will so greatly exceed the original estimate that I felt it to be my duty to order a special survey of the work to be made by Mr. Churchill, whose report explains the causes of the increase very clearly and satisfactorily. The work is of the most substantial character, and the progress made affords every reason to suppose that on the 1st of January 1859 the largest bridge yet undertaken in Ceylon will be opened to the public.

9. The sum allotted for the upkeep of roads, &c. has been distributed, as required, over all the principal lines of communication, most of which are now in excellent order. The Kandy Road requires a large annual outlay, from the immense traffic of which it is the outlet. Considerable progress has been made in metalling the road between Colombo and Galle, and 7,000*l.* have been voted for the complete repair of that which leads from Kandy by Nuwera Ellia to Badulla. The road, as far as Nuwera Ellia, was in excellent order; but the 36 miles from the plain to Badulla were almost impassable for wheel carriages. Their repair has been carried on with great vigour, and by the close of the present year I expect that the whole 236 miles from Galle to Badulla will be in a state that will bear comparison with any similar extent of road in any other colony.

10. In giving 147,174*l.* 4*s.* 10*d.* as the total expenditure on public works in 1857, I must observe that this applies only to works under the immediate control of the Civil Engineer. But the Surplus Fund Ordinance for 1856 makes provision for several important items, which must otherwise have been charged against general revenue; as, for example, 4,000*l.* for irrigation works (including those in the Batticaloa district), and 17,000*l.* for the electric telegraph, of which a portion, representing 10,000*l.* must have been executed in 1857, making 14,000*l.* in all, to be added to the total already given, which will then amount to 161,174*l.* The Surplus Fund Ordinance of last year, amounting to 64,000*l.*, applies to the current financial year, and not to 1857.

Ordinance No. 17. of 1856.

Survey Department.

11. The progress of the Survey Department, as will appear by the accompanying report for the year 1857, has been most satisfactory. The land sold amounts to 20,005 acres, out of 21,786 advertised, and the proceeds, by sales and fees, were 37,089*l.*, against an expenditure of 11,478*l.* If these results could be obtained with the very small means at Captain Gosset's disposal, and with a staff wholly inadequate to keep pace with the demands of the public, I cannot err in reiterating the statements made in my two former Blue Book Despatches, namely, that whatever additions be made to the Survey Department there will be ample employment for them during the next 20 years, and an equally ample return in pecuniary and social advantages. As a check upon litigation and fraud, an encouragement to industry, a security for the revenue derived from land, the increase of the Survey Department is a matter of primary necessity to this colony; and I can only express my hope that the liberal establishment voted by the new ordinance, and Captain Gosset's personal exertions while in England, may enable him to return here with a staff equal to his wants, and able to carry out improvements of which the island is only beginning to feel the benefit.

Education.

12. The annual report prepared by the School Commission gives, upon the whole, an encouraging view of the progress of education, and more particularly of the dissemination of the English language, in which most of the leading natives have acquired great proficiency. I should wish, I confess, to see more attention turned to this, and to studies of practical utility, than to Greek and Latin, which the Cingalese and Tamils have little probability of using. In this sense I almost regard the Government factory as an educational establishment; and I have seen, with great satisfaction, young men of the first burgher and native families entering themselves as apprentices, and already becoming familiar with the application of steam power, and the principles by which it is regulated. Some of the apprentices have been employed in putting together the iron lattice bridges sent out by Mr. Brotherhood, and the brickmaking machines, which are now in full operation; and they have acquitted themselves most satisfactorily.

Queen's House.

13. The accompanying reports show that both the Queen's House at Colombo and the Pavilion at Kandy are in good repair, and have required few additions. The verandah mentioned by Major Skinner belongs to 1858, not to 1857. It was much needed.

14. The customs returns show that there was an increase of 272,976*l.* in the value of goods imported in 1857, as compared with 1856, the one having been 1,946,559*l.*, the other 1,673,583*l.*, and of 474,004*l.* in the exports, the value being, 1856, 1,509,087*l.*, 1857, 1,983,091*l.* The revenue derived from imports and exports was:—

	£
1857 - - -	156,690
1856 - - -	149,397
Increase - -	£7,293

The exports of cinnamon fell from 909,033 lbs. to 887,959; while the exports of coffee rose by 161,447 cwts., the amount being 1857 - 602,266 cwts.
1856 - 440,819 „

Some portion of this increase may, no doubt, be ascribed to a more favourable season, and to the desire of the merchants to make early shipments, in order to avoid the export duty, which came into force on the 1st January 1858; but a large proportion of it must be put down to the greater breadth of land brought under coffee cultivation, which is increasing every year, the attention of the natives being turned in that direction by the success attending the larger estates, and an infinity of small holdings, especially in the neighbourhood of Kandy, being now planted with coffee, a practice unknown a few years ago. The increase in the imports of rice and paddy corroborates this conclusion, for the whole of the coffee lands are cultivated by immigrant cooly labour, and this again is fed by rice imported from India, the value of which rose from 609,304*l.* in 1856 to 718,672*l.* in 1857, being an increase of 109,368*l.*

Cash Transactions.

15. The cash transactions of the year amounted in receipts to 745,774*l.*, and the balance in favour of the Government on the 1st January 1858 was 196,095*l.* 15*s.* 7½*d.* including the loan of 50,000*l.* to the Oriental Bank, and a cash balance of 4,153*l.* 9*s.* 4½*d.* in the hands of the colonial agent in London. The amount of cash in the general treasury and the cutcherries appears to have been 80,134*l.* 12*s.* 8½*d.*

Pearl Fishery.

16. The pearl fishery of 1857 was remarkable rather for the abundance of the oysters than for the richness of their produce. The price per thousand was, moreover, reduced much below the proper standard by a combination amongst the buyers, the attendance being limited, and competition small. Indeed so successful were the chetties (native traders) in their league, that their operations were only checked by a threat to close the fishery unless something like the real value of the oysters were obtained. Being on my way from Trincomalie to Kandy at the time, though prevented by illness from visiting Aripo, I gave the Superintendent full authority to do this. But the knowledge that he possessed the power rendered its use unnecessary, the dealers having come sufficiently near to the Government standard to ensure a considerable return from the fishery, and the Superintendent wisely considering that the profits made in 1857 would attract a large attendance, and consequently cause greater competition in 1858. This is the only real remedy, for though the Government may prefer closing the fishery to sacrificing its property at half value, it is not at all likely that the oysters left upon the banks one year will be available the next. If of the proper age when the fishery begins, that is, from five to six years old, they have reached their natural term, and die off in the interim.

17. It was, under these circumstances, to the mass of oysters fished that the Government owed its receipts, which amounted to 20,364*l.*; 150 boats were employed, averaging ten tons each, and carrying 750 divers, with crews of 1,125 men. The total number of oysters brought on shore, including Government and divers shares (one third), was 32,453,053; the average per day, 1,411,002, and per boat, 19,983. Some boats, however, picked up as many as 20,000, 25,000, 30,000, and even 33,000 oysters, and a large number from 20,000 to 25,000 daily. The 150 boats were told off in two divisions of 75 each, and sent out alternately; and it was only twice that the rule was infringed, 90 boats having been employed. The immense mass of oysters brought on shore, amounting nearly to one and a half million a day, and sometimes reaching two millions, was very favourable to the buyers, the Superintendent being anxious to clear the kotoos before the produce of the next day came in, and prices consequently ranged from 7½ to 16 rupees, at which rates, however, a gross receipt of 20,364*l.* was realized,

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exceeding by 4,864*l.* the sum offered for the fishery by private speculators, whose proposals I declined, with the concurrence of the Executive Council. The management of the fishery was throughout most creditable to the Superintendent, Mr. Vane.

Legislation.

18. The session of 1857 was not closed until the 6th of January 1858, in consequence of the protracted discussions to which the Ordinance on Fixed Establishments gave rise. As the Bill has received Her Majesty's sanction, it is needless to recur to the points of difference here. No change of this description was ever more carefully considered; and though the increase to the annual expenditure of the colony is large, amounting to no less than 25,777*l.* 0*s.* 6*d.*, the very general support which the measure received evinced a not less general belief that it was based on sound principles, and that the increase was called for in order to ensure to the colony an establishment adequate to its work. The largest additions proposed were in the departments of the Surveyor General and of the Commissioner of Public Works, and these were adopted almost unanimously. But, as it may be desirable to place on record the reasons given for what was granted and what was withheld, I append to this despatch the papers exchanged between the Committee of the Legislative Council and myself; and I beg to bear testimony to the fact, that, in the course of my parliamentary experience, I never knew a discussion involving so many personal interests conducted with so much moderation and good sense. The colony is deeply indebted to Lord Stanley for the weight that he has been pleased to give to the recommendation of its legislature, and I feel confident that the encouragement thus afforded to many deserving public servants will act as a stimulus to fresh exertions in the large and interesting field which this island presents to all who enter upon their work in a proper spirit.

19. The other measures of the session require little comment, though practically of much importance. The ordinances confirming the two supplemental agreements with the railway company, and regulating the establishment and management of electric telegraphs, mark a change in the position and prospects of Ceylon which few would have been sanguine enough to anticipate ten years ago. The one will provide for the conveyance of its staple produce to the port of shipment at half the present cost; the other will make Galle eventually the port of call for the whole Indian trade, by bringing it into contact with Calcutta, Madras, and Bombay. The telegraph is now completed as far as Kandy, and will reach Manaar before the end of the year. The railway works begin on the 29th of July.

No. 1. of 1857.
No. 2. of 1857.

20. The Act for promoting the construction of branch roads by "Grants in Aid" applies to estates having an interest in a common line of communication, the machinery which has worked so satisfactorily in its application to native or other landowners having a common interest in the supply of water for a particular district. It enables them to hold meetings, and to assess themselves by the vote of the majority for such a share of the expenditure as will entitle them to Government aid. Several meetings have already been held under this Act in the planting districts, and I have little doubt that it will be largely used.

No. 16. of 1857.

21. The Supplementary Supply Bill of 1857, by which an expenditure of 82,050*l.* 5*s.* 6*d.* incurred upon the sole responsibility of the Governor was sanctioned without a dissentient voice, requires some explanation. The circumstances attending it are fully stated in my speech on the third reading of the Bill, which I have the honour to enclose. My justification in assuming so great a responsibility consisted in the fact that the "actual" had exceeded the "estimated" revenue of the year to so great an extent that a large surplus had become available for local improvements, which were urgently required, but must have been deferred for eighteen months had I waited to take a vote upon estimates properly prepared in the ensuing session. The proof that my intervention was in perfect harmony with the public feeling will be found in the accompanying addresses, signed by nearly every planter in the central province, as well as by the leading merchants of Colombo. But the experiment is not one that ought to be repeated, and I have much pleasure in stating that the liberal expenditure provided for in the estimates of the current year and under the surplus fund vote will make the Supplementary Supply Bill of 1858 one of the smallest upon record.

22. The Surplus Fund Ordinance, No. 17, is the last to which I need allude. It provides for an outlay of 64,000*l.*, in addition to the ordinary expenditure of 1858; 7,000*l.* of which are appropriated to irrigation works; 6,100*l.* to salt stores at Putlam, to be built in conformity with the recommendation of the Commissioners of the Board of Audit in England and of the Commission upon the Salt Revenue here; 5,000*l.*

for the prolongation to Mutwall of the Negombo Canal (which communicates with Putlam); 5,000*l.* for a new court of requests at Hulfsdorp, corresponding with the district court erected last year; 4,700*l.* for the drainage of the Pettah; 3,500*l.* for the improvement of the road between Kandy and Jaffna; and 8,000*l.* for officers' quarters at Colombo and Galle, the want of which has become most urgent, from the rapid appropriation of the private house property in the two forts to mercantile purposes. All these are objects of primary importance to the colony; and the best proof that my proposals were framed with impartiality, and with a due sense of what was required, is that the whole of them were adopted unanimously, both in the council and in the committee to which the Bill was referred.

23. I have now, Sir, submitted to you proofs that this colony is in a healthy and progressive state. Its liabilities are exceedingly small; it has no debt; its revenue increases year by year, and responds to the outlay upon public works. Whatever tends to develop the resources of the island yields immediate fruit. If large sums have been spent upon roads and bridges in the last three years, the tolls show an increase of 9,644*l.* 19*s.* in 1857 as compared with 1856. If the Kandy Road cost annually 15,000*l.* in upkeep, it contributes 28,588*l.* to the revenue. If 4,000*l.* have been voted for the Batticaloa Irrigation Works in the year 1858, I can show that in 1857 the land sales more than covered the entire outlay upon the works, the one being 1,447*l.*, the other 1,544*l.* Perhaps, as the matter has strictly reference to the expenditure of 1857, I may be permitted to append to this report the copy of a despatch addressed to Mr. Labouchere after visiting Ericamaam in January 1858, and some extracts from a letter subsequently received from Mr. Birch, the district judge of Batticaloa, by which you will perceive the immense benefit conferred upon the district by the restoration of the Dutch reservoirs, even in their present imperfect state. I saw, myself, in January 1858, a lake nine miles in circumference, and containing nineteen millions of cubic yards of water, where I had left a swampy plain in February 1857, too wet for cultivation, too dry to supply water to the rice-growing pattoos upon the coast. The opening of this lake, at a moment when the ground was parched by four months of uninterrupted drought, has secured the June irrigation of one of the finest rice crops ever known, nine tenths of which must have been lost without this timely aid. The crop is estimated at 185,000 bushels, of which the natives declare that not 5,000 would have been saved. Its value, on the most moderate computation, is 10,000*l.*; and though the Government will derive no immediate increase of revenue from the preservation of the crop, I regard this as rather a fortunate circumstance, since the pecuniary advantages secured to the landowners by the irrigation works will remove all difficulties with regard to the Government tenth, when we come to the new commutation in 1860, and will, undoubtedly, lead to a large investment of fresh capital in land. I look, therefore, to the early repayment of the Government advances, which will amount at the close of the present year to about 7,000*l.*, and to a considerable revenue in perpetuity from a district which for the last thirty years has produced nothing at all.

24. In addressing Lord Stanley, for whom this despatch was intended, I ventured to appeal to his personal acquaintance with Ceylon to corroborate my statement that this is but one of many instances in which the fostering hand of the Government is alone required to develope resources that have been too long overlooked. In attempting this, I must now solicit the same support and encouragement from you, Sir, that I have received from all your predecessors since it pleased Her Majesty to intrust me with the government of Ceylon. I can do nothing without your confidence and aid; with them no man can desire a nobler field. It is the fashion to accuse the native population of apathy and sloth, because they are slow to embark in branches of industry foreign to their habits, and distasteful to them from the restraints imposed. But take them upon their own ground, encourage them to do what their forefathers did when Ceylon was the granary of the East; consult their ancient customs, many of which are founded upon the nicest appreciation of the duties devolving upon each member of a community, where co-operation is the secret of success, since it is upon the supply of water that the crop of a district depends, and this cannot be secured without the joint labour of all concerned; and you will find these apathetic men full of intelligence, capable of the most persevering efforts, and grateful for the smallest assistance. As an illustration of this, I annex a despatch upon the state of Orwah, addressed to Mr. Labouchere, at the close of my southern tour, showing the impulse given to an important portion of the old Kandian kingdom by the Irrigation Act*, which, when properly worked, I believe to be one of the most useful measures ever passed by this legislature. Throughout the southern province, the same wants and the same desire for opportunities of improvement prevail; and the apathy, I say it with regret, is to be found rather on the part of the Government

* No. 9. of 1856.

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than on that of the people. We have not done our duty in this matter by the population committed to our charge; we have not understood their character or their wants. The works upon which the success or failure of eastern agriculture depends cannot be undertaken without Government assistance. Their maintenance requires constant watchfulness and some annual outlay, for which our predecessors the Dutch provided amply, and were amply repaid by the increased productiveness of districts which have relapsed into sterility under our rule. In the eastern province we are simply following in their footsteeps. In the southern province, I feel confident that the reports which I shall shortly have the honour of submitting to you will satisfy you that we must do the same, if we wish to redeem the injury inflicted by past indifference. And I cannot bring this despatch, intended as it is to lay before Her Majesty's Government a faithful picture of the state of Ceylon, to a more useful close than I shall do by recording my conviction, after an experience of three years, that it is only by extending to native interests the same attention and encouragement that we pay to those of our own countrymen that we shall ever realise the benefits that ought to be derived from British rule.

25. Happily there is no incompatibility between the two, and no lack of means to do justice to both. The vast interests which British energy and capital are creating in the interior furnish the readiest market for every article that the industry of the low country can produce. What is wanted is good local information, a knowledge of the field upon which we have to work, and improved communication to turn its natural advantages to account. In some branches of industry the identification of interests is already complete. It will be so in all, when the system that I have attempted to delineate is fully carried out; and the Queen's Government may rest assured, that in urging upon its attention the necessity of increased expenditure in the Survey Department, in roads, bridges, and irrigation works, I am but supplying the links of that chain which will unite all classes of Her Majesty's subjects most firmly to the Crown, by the ties of a common interest rightly understood.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. G. WARD.

The Right Hon. Sir E. B. Lytton, Bart.
&c. &c. &c.

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No. 37.

No. 37.

EXTRACT of DESPATCH from Governor Sir JOHN BOWRING to the Right Hon. HENRY LABOUCHERE, M.P.

Government Offices, Victoria, Hong Kong, March 25, 1858.
(Received May 21, 1858.)

I HAVE the honour to lay before you the Blue Book of this colony for 1857, and to call your attention to the observations thereon of the Acting Colonial Secretary, who has during the past year rendered very valuable and active service in bringing about a state of things which I hope will be deemed satisfactory, while at the same time I venture to state that various changes now in progress or in contemplation will add to the financial prosperity, and advance the good government of this growing and improving settlement.

It may well be a subject of congratulation that with so little, and I hope it will ultimately prove with no pecuniary sacrifice, we have passed through a crisis which warranted much anxiety and apprehension. If the Executive was armed with strong powers for the defence and protection of the colony, I may well aver these powers have been used with moderation, that the ordinary course of judicature has not been interrupted, that the public tranquillity has been admirably preserved, and that substantial meliorations in most of the departments of administration have signalized the period on which I have now to report.

If the claims to some imperial grant as compensation for heavy charges imposed on the colony for imperial purposes shall be recognized by Her Majesty's Government, our public works will be carried on with an activity which local resources will not allow. Our market system is undergoing a thorough revision, and new and convenient market

places are being erected by means we have been enabled to provide. The docks at Aberdeen (a private enterprise) are rapidly progressing. The praya or quay is already making great advances in the part of the city where the Chinese population have had principally to be dealt with, and I hope the time is not distant in which the resistance of the opulent European merchant will be subjugated without any demand upon the British treasury for carrying on this very important work. HONG KONG.

It would be a source of gratification to me if the liberality of Parliament, on the recommendation of Her Majesty's Government, would enable me to construct a prison more efficient for discipline and security, more in harmony with the intelligence and benevolence of our times, more adapted to the necessities of a rapidly growing population; and as our gaols are the recipients not only of the criminals of the island but of the offenders collected all along the coast, and sent by the different consulates for punishment to Hong Kong, I cannot but hope that we may be relieved from a portion of the charges which are not entailed upon us for local but for national purposes.*

So, again, as regards proper buildings for the magistracy, and for the supreme court, and all offices connected with the administration of justice. This island provides and pays for all the machinery of appeal and superintendence associated with our vast trading interests in China. These interests supply nearly one eighth of the whole revenues of Great Britain and British India; on an average searcely less than ten millions sterling. Those revenues may naturally be expected to come to our aid, as this colony contributes so largely to their creation and protection.

Our civil hospital†, now in a very unsatisfactory state, has a somewhat similar claim. Hong Kong, independently of its own commerce, is the calling place of the ships of all nations, the central point from which vast relations are directed, so that its harbour and its streets are crowded with strangers.

Following the course which is adopted in the letter of the Acting Colonial Secretary, I would observe, that in the past year the character of the legislature has been greatly improved, and established on broader basis by the augmentation of the number of its members, while from the beginning of the present year publicity has been given to its proceedings by publishing an analysis in the Government Gazette. I propose to extend these reports into greater details, and hope Her Majesty's Government will in the course of the present year consent to the admission of the public to the debates of the council.‡

As regards the ordinances and notifications reported in the Blue Book, I think the stringency of several, called for in the peculiar circumstances of the colony, may now safely be lessened; while at the same time I cannot but state that the severest of the checks which it was deemed necessary to impose have met with the general approval of the inhabitants, not excepting the respectable part of the native population, upon whom, on the Chinese continent, far heavier restrictions are habitually placed. From the 1st of April the right of the Chinese to circulate in the streets without passes will be extended from eight to nine o'clock p.m.; but the maintenance of the power to interdict nocturnal ramblers is a cheap, efficacious, and even popular measure, and one quite in conformity with the local legislation of the Chinese. With reference especially to the Registration Ordinance, No. 6 of 1857, I consider many of its experimental provisions wholly to have failed. I surrendered my own judgment to some extent when I consented to the passing this Ordinance; but there was a strong feeling that some system of registration would add greatly to the public security. I concur with Mr. Bridges in thinking that it is as impracticable to register a population like ours as to hold mercury between the fingers.

I reserve my opinion as to the operation of the Venereal Disease Ordinance, though I am, on the whole, disposed to think favourably of its action, with the special attention Mr. Bridges has kindly given to the subject.

With reference to the finances of the colony, you will observe generally, that if the expenditure (mainly for public works) has been considerably increased, the resources have been augmented in adequate proportion; and while the demands for outlay will for the most part be of a transitory and temporary character, the increased income is likely to be permanent and substantial. Though it is undoubtedly my desire to expend considerable sums upon public buildings and improvements, I will take care that no embarrassments shall be created; and, unless circumstances wholly unanticipated should arise, no claims shall, without your sanction, be made on the imperial treasury.

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* £5,000 out of the £10,000 voted by Parliament will be applied to the building and re-arrangement of the gaols.

† £2,000 will also be applied to the hospital out of the Parliamentary grant.

‡ Note.—The public are now admitted to the Legislative Council Chamber during the debates.

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As regards our income, I have been enabled to reduce the police rates from 10 to 8½ per cent., in consequence of the increased value of property on the island, which has, with the augmented rate (upon the original 5 per cent. as before levied), enabled me nearly to accomplish the desirable object of paying from the police rate all the charges of police. I have also been enabled from the augmented returns of the lighting rate to increase the number of lamps from 250 to 350.

Most of the now available land in the colony, especially that having sea frontage, having been disposed of, I cannot look to premiums on future sales of land as an important aid to our revenues. It is, however, to be anticipated that the building of docks and other attractions on the south side of the island, will bring us some resources from that quarter.

I have little doubt the opium monopoly, under the new arrangements reported by this mail, will give us at the least an increase of from 5,000*l.* to 6,000*l.* a year.

Though it is not possible to estimate the augmentation of income likely to result from the proposed changes in the market system, there is every reason to believe that while the public will be relieved from the oppression of an intolerable monopoly, the treasury will be considerably benefited.

It may also be fairly expected that from no longer allowing the public monies to be dormant in the strong vault, but by using the chartered banks for the deposit of our balances, there will be a considerable receipt in the shape of interest.

We have now under consideration the system of licensing taverns and other places of public entertainment, and hope to improve the existing arrangements, and thereby also to serve the revenue.

With regard to the police*, I am quite alive to its many defects, and the desirableness of increasing its activity and efficiency; but we have very indifferent materials for constructing a thoroughly satisfactory corps. Europeans, under the influence of the climate, so easily fall into habits of intoxication and other irregularities; the mixed races, to whom we must principally look, are tainted with so many oriental vices; the inquiries I instituted as to the aptitudes of the Malays, and the practicability of importing a body of them with their families, were very discouraging; while the Chinese population is almost universally so mendacious and corrupt as to render them for the most part wholly untrustworthy; these, and other practical difficulties, entitle any shortcomings to be regarded with leniency. But I have found a general concurrence in the opinion that in the last year there has been a very marked improvement, both in the appearance and in the real value of the police. The augmentation of its numbers during the period of our greatest anxieties and perils enabled the Superintendent, as it returned to its normal state, to root out many of its most defective members.

It is due to Mr. Bridges to say, that he has been specially active in his attention to this important arm and instrument of Government.

In the opinions conveyed to you by Mr. Bridges, as to the improved management of the jail under Mr. Inglis' governorship, I most heartily concur. He appears to me to be doing all that he can in the present inappropriate and ill-constructed edifice. Your views with respect to the construction of a new gaol will, of course, influence my decision, as to the suggestion of the Acting Colonial Secretary, for the future appropriation of the present building to prisoners under short sentences.

Under the Surveyor General's Department I have little to add to the remarks of Mr. Bridges. The expenditure which is applicable to public works must mainly depend upon the balance which the cost of fixed establishments and other absolutely necessary outlays may leave at the disposal of the Government. Charges of an uncertain character must necessarily be provided for, though they can scarcely be approximately estimated. Our buildings, roads, drains, watercourses, bridges, and public works of every description are so much affected by the fluctuation of the seasons, by typhoons and storms, and the fierce elements which the tropics bring into irresistible activity, added to the entire dependence of the colony on foreign supply for most of the materials of construction (except granite, of which we possess a superfluity), that much uncertainty must attend the expenditure of the Surveyor General's Department.

I attach great importance to the question of an adequate water supply. Though the island owes its very name to the reputation of its waters, the vast increase of population, the enormous demands for the shipping, and the insufficiency of present arrangements (though much has been done) to provide a sufficiency of water, all serves to show that measures for providing for the necessity of the case should have early attention, which I will not fail to give.

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* £3,000 out of the Parliamentary grant is applied to police and gaol expenses.

The growth of the native population, a growth still likely to progress, makes the services of the Registrar General and protector of the Chinese more and more important. The Chinese houses in the city are not only crowded but crammed, while the increasing proportion of females to males shows tendencies of the most encouraging character. It is impossible to walk through our streets without observing a marked improvement in the domestic comforts as in the dress of the people. Localities where there were a few years ago nothing but rude and ragged shantees are now being covered with respectable dwellings of bricks and stone. Shops exhibit undoubted evidence of progress and prosperity; and I observe many of the respectable shopkeepers of Canton establishing themselves among us. The prejudices against the colony are gradually wearing away; and, notwithstanding very many uncorrected and not easily traceable abuses, I think there is among the Chinese a strengthening confidence in the integrity of the higher officials, in the due administration of justice, and in the protection of the inhabitants against arbitrary and despotic acts.

If we could ensure the retention of the services of the present Colonial Surgeon, I should be well satisfied with the present arrangements, except that I think Dr. Menzies is inadequately paid. I have great pleasure in reporting my thorough approval of the manner in which the duties of the Colonial Surgeon have been lately discharged.

You will observe a great defalcation in the quantity of mercantile shipping which entered the harbour in 1857 as compared with 1856.

	1856.		1857.	
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.
Entered - -	2,091	811,307	1,070	541,063
Decrease - -	- -	- -	1,021	270,244

This is principally to be attributed to the stoppage of the river trade with Canton, which employs ordinarily many steamers, whose frequent voyages greatly add to the amount of the return.

Public education has taken an important stride in the course of the past year, but this I hope is only an introduction to a far greater advance. I have personally visited many of the schools, and observed a very marked improvement. We have lent the services of the inspector, W. Lobscheid, for a short time, to the allied authorities at Canton, where his knowledge of the local idiom cannot but be very useful.

I have to add that, by the Colonial Treasurer's report, there will remain to us from the services for the year 1856 a balance of about 4,700*l.*

EXTRACT of a REPORT from Mr. BRIDGES (Acting Colonial Secretary) to Governor Sir J. Bowring.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Victoria, Hong Kong,
March 20, 1858.

I HAVE the honour to lay before your Excellency the Blue Book for 1857. It contains the details of perhaps the most remarkable year in the history of this colony, and it will not be impertinent to advert to some of the more prominent events before remarking in detail upon the several establishments.

The commencement of 1857 found Hong Kong, in consequence of recent occurrences at Canton, suffering under a panic among the foreign residents, and an apparent intention on the part of all the more respectable part of the Chinese to return to the mainland. The almost universal poisoning, by arsenic, of foreigners, which occurred on the 15th of January, brought this feeling of insecurity to its height, and the knowledge that for the next three succeeding months a crafty and unscrupulous enemy was in our imme-

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diate vicinity, solely occupied in devising plots against both life and property in the city of Victoria, demanded unceasing vigilance on the part of the executive. By the great goodness of God the Government and the community have passed unscathed through these varied trials; and instead of the colony having suffered, I may confidently assure your Excellency that more real substantial progress has been made and improvement effected, in 1857, than in any previous year; and if, in the face of such trials, every portion of our revenue has given signs of a steady movement in advance, slight fears need now be entertained for the future prosperity of Hong Kong.

Three undertakings, which must necessarily exercise a great influence on the commercial prosperity of the island, the comfort of its inhabitants, and the appearance and safety of its capital, have been successfully commenced during the past year. I refer to the docks now in progress at Aberdeen, the rebuilding of the public markets, the erection of several new ones, and the construction of the Bowring praya. The docks are a private enterprise, fraught with most important consequences to that portion of the island which has been selected for their site, and the conditions upon which they are built will always afford to Her Majesty's ships the means of repairing all accidents which may occur to them in the China seas. By a judicious sale of certain portions of the market property ample funds have been obtained for rebuilding and constructing all the edifices necessary for a thorough re-arrangement of the market system, and there is every reason to suppose that the result of the change will be the destruction of a system of almost monopoly, which was injurious to the consumer, and not beneficial to the finances of the Government, and that the next Blue Book may tell of both an increased revenue from and diminished prices in the markets. That part of the Bowring praya which abuts on the Chinese portion of the town is in course of construction, and although the European Crown lessees apparently manifest less inclination to meet the wishes of the Government on this score, I can hardly doubt that persistence in a firm but conciliatory line of conduct with regard to them will eventually be successful. One great step in advance has at any rate been effected with regard to all; the value of the encroachments on the sea frontage has been assessed and levied, and no slight addition thereby made to the rent roll of Crown lands.

Striking changes have also been effected in the thorough lighting of the town, the numbering and registration of all the houses, the complete organization of the night pass system, the most beneficial police measure which has hitherto been carried into effect in this colony, and, finally, the registration of houses of ill-fame, and their restriction to certain portions of the town.

It is no slight satisfaction to me to be enabled to report that only one act of peculiar atrocity, the murder of the oldest English resident in China, Mr. Markwick, by his own servant, appears worthy of notice in the year's calendar of crime; and there the swift punishment which followed a criminal who seemed to have escaped beyond our jurisdiction was a source of satisfaction to the whole community, and a lesson full of warning to the Chinese population.

The Legislative Council has also assumed an entirely new character during the past year; its numbers have been increased by three official and one un-official members, whilst the vacancies created by the two original non-official members have been supplied. It must, therefore, be considered more in the light of a legislative body than has hitherto been the case; and its last act in the session of 1857 having been to decide unanimously on the publication of the records of its proceedings, no complaint can hereafter be fairly raised against it of a desire to avoid public comment on its acts.

I now proceed to make such observations as occur to me on the different topics suggested by the Blue Book.

1.—*Legislature.*

The Legislature passed during the year 12 Ordinances and one Rule of Court. Of these, the last named, and Ordinances 1, 4, 7, 8, and 9, had at the end of the year been confirmed by Her most Gracious Majesty the Queen; Ordinance 2 was suspended by your Excellency in Council, in consequence of instructions to that effect received from the Colonial Office; Ordinances 3, 5, and 6 were still under consideration; and Ordinances 10, 11, and 12 were passed too late in the year to admit of any notice with regard to them being received from home.

The general character of the legislation has been important, and presents more ground for remark than most preceding years. Ordinances 2 and 9 have enabled the Executive to keep our large Chinese population in hand during a season of great anxiety and some danger; and there is every reason to believe that the restrictive measures therein legalized

are highly satisfactory to all the respectable portion of the colonists, both native and foreign. The Registration Ordinance 6 was as to some of its provisions strongly opposed by me in the Legislative Council, and the more intimate knowledge of the people which the duties of my office have forced on me convince me that I was quite right in such opposition. With a fluctuating population such as ours it is impossible to carry out a system of personal registration, and it would be very injudicious to attempt so vexatious a proceeding, and then fail after all. Many of the other provisions of this Ordinance are admirable, but it attempts too much. Should it be remitted for reconsideration, it can, I think, be substantially improved. The only other Ordinance which demands particular mention from me is 12, for checking the spread of venereal disease, which came into operation at the close of the year. This enactment is, I believe, the first instance in which an English legislature has attempted to control the evils arising from prostitution; and I am firmly convinced that no more wise or beneficial measure was ever introduced in this or any other part of Her Majesty's dominions. Like most other experiments, the first essay is perhaps far from being perfect; but, nevertheless, a vast amount of good must be the immediate result; and it is no slight satisfaction to me personally to have been allowed to co-operate in so good a work.

Colonial Treasurer.

The returns from this department will perhaps be more closely scrutinized by the home authorities than those of any other in the Colonial Government, and unless carefully dissected they may lead to some misconception. There will at first sight appear a most striking similarity between the increase of the revenue and of the expenditure.

The gross and net increase of the former having been 24,073*l.* 4*s.* and 23,341*l.* 13*s.* 10*d.*, and of the latter 23,325*l.* and 23,071*l.*, respectively, thus apparently making the burdens on the colonial purse keep pace with its increasing prosperity; but, unless I am very much mistaken, it can be fairly demonstrated, that whereas the greater part of the outlay of the year 1857, was produced by political causes, the pressure of which had passed away before the close of the year, the additions to its revenue are of a permanent character, and more likely to advance than to fall off.

The principal sources of the increased receipts are,—

	£	s.	d.
Police assessment	3,508	9	6
Premiums on land sold	13,602	12	10
Markets	1,460	11	1½
Fees and fines	2,032	1	4
Special receipts	1,450	16	4½
Interest	900	0	0
	22,954	11	2

With the exception of the second item of this list, the great amount of which was caused by a sale of houses attached to the markets, the remaining five owe their increase to a more judicious management of Government property, a determination to make the community bear a fair proportion of its municipal expenses, and a decided increase in the population and the value of house property. Unless a change take place in the fortunes of the colony which no one has a right to anticipate at present, each successive year (supposing a similar line of policy to be persevered in) will increase these separate heads of revenue, and prevent a repetition of what has occurred this year, a falling off in the receipt from licences, but the trifling diminution there, 185*l.*, may fairly be set down rather to accidental causes than to any failure in the prosperity of the colony.

The additions to the expenditure are principally to be attributed to,—

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Increase of establishments:—						
Auditor General	422	4	1			
Registrar General	1,167	0	1½			
Police and gaols	4,046	14	11			
				5,635	19	1½
Carry forward				5,635	19	1½

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Brought forward - -			£5,635	19 1½
Increase, exclusive of establishments:—				
Police and gaols - - - - -	2,101	19 8½		
Works and buildings, roads, streets, &c. -	8,410	11 7		
Purchase of buildings - - -	1,971	14 8		
Special expenses - - - -	3,448	9 5		
			15,932	15 4½
			21,568	14 6

I shall explain in another place the causes which have led to so considerable an increase in the departments of the Registrar General, the police and gaol, and works and buildings.

Purchase of buildings 1,971*l.* 14*s.* 8*d.*

The re-arrangement of the market system rendered it necessary to buy the remainder of the term of years of one of the market lessees, and it was expenditure on this account that has added so materially to this item of outlay.

Special expenses 3,797*l.* 10*s.* 6*d.*

The items which create this total are:—

	£	s.	d.
Emptying dust bins - - - - - - -	182	18	4
Lighting street lamps - - - - - - -	862	3	1
Charter of the "Phœbe Dunbar" to deport certain Chinese - -	1,130	4	2
Ditto of the steamer "Eaglet" to protect the harbour - - -	891	4	2
Passage money from Singapore to the Peninsular and Oriental Steamer for officer and men of the 59th Regiment who were sent as guard in the "Phœbe Dunbar" - - - - - -	306	17	7
Other incidental special expenses - - - - -	424	3	2
	3,797	10	6

Whereas the sum expended under the head of special expenses in the preceding year, 1856, a period unmarked by any unusual contingencies, only amounted to 349*l.* 1*s.* 1*d.*

3. Police and Gaols.

The excess of expenditure on Police and Gaols in 1857, as compared with 1856, has been 5,986*l.* 14*s.* 11*d.* of which only 381*l.* 0*s.* 7*d.* is on account of the gaol, and the remainder, 5,605*l.* 14s. 11*d.*, on account of the police.

As the police and the gaol have no connexion with each other in this colony it will be better that I should treat of them separately.

The unusual precautions which it was found necessary to take during the first six months of 1857 necessitated a large temporary increase to the police force, and its consequence was a considerable additional expenditure, but when the emergency passed off reductions were at once made, and by the close of the year the force had returned to its old strength, except as regards the water police, consisting principally of Chinese, and whose services cannot well be dispensed with. The general pay of subordinate members has been slightly increased, and I am inclined to hope with beneficial results, as a better class of men seem willing to enter the service now than at any previous period.

I cannot, however, refrain from putting on record my opinion that the police force is still in a most unsatisfactory condition; and although the materials which compose it preclude the possibility of its ever attaining a high state of efficiency, yet a close and constant attention paid by myself personally convinces me that were greater activity made use of by the Superintendent of Police the force could be considerably improved.

The Gaol.

The excess of expenditure here in 1857 over 1856 has been 381*l.* 7*d.*, and this is to be attributed to an alteration in the establishment of the appointment of a governor, slight additions to the salaries, and a vast increase in the number of prisoners, who have averaged 321 each week throughout the year.

But had this increase been thrice its present amount it would, I think, have been cheaply purchased, considering the wonderful improvement which has resulted from

relieving the sheriff of the custody of the prisoners, and placing them under the care of Mr. Inglis, the present governor. I should occupy far too much space were I to attempt to enumerate the changes for the better; and I will therefore confine myself to saying, that the gaol, up to the early part of 1857, had every possible defect of management save one, and that want of cleanliness, and now it is as well regulated as it can possibly be, considering its deficiencies in accommodation and want of security. It must, however, be again repeated, that whereas, according to the rules of prison areas in England, (far too limited for a climate like this,) there is only space for 190 prisoners at one time in Victoria gaol, the average has been 70 per cent. in excess of this. The smallest number on the returns gives 245 and the largest 584 occupants at any one period; and I cannot but feel considerable regret that the state of the colonial finances compels the continuance of a system so dangerous and so much to be lamented. As, however, there appears to be a promise of funds available hereafter for enlarging the gaol, I would respectfully suggest to your Excellency that the best course then to be pursued will be, not to extend the present premises, but to construct a separate prison elsewhere for the prisoners under long sentence, and to reserve the existing gaol for the short sentence men of all descriptions. Now the European seamen sent in for refusal of duty or intoxication herd at least all day with the European transports of every dye of crime, running the risk of making themselves worse, and alleviating in an improper manner the severity of the punishnishment of the felon convict, by giving him an unceasing change of companionship, and enabling him to convey messages out should he wish to attempt to escape. Now, also, the same evil exists to a still greater degree from the admixture in the hospital and the common yard and at meal times of Chinese transports with the minor vice and crime of the native population, who, coming in merely for days, weeks, or months, convey to the lifer or the twenty years' man all the petty details of the most recent robberies or remarkable burglaries or piracies, to the deeper contamination of all parties. It is evident that we are unable to rid ourselves of our European transports, and can only at rare intervals draft off batches of our Chinese to Labuan. I would, therefore, wish to see the construction of a convict gaol, to be reserved solely for that purpose. It could, I believe, be erected at hardly more expense than is required for the enlargement of Victoria gaol, a work otherwise of indispensable necessity. Were that done hardly any money need be spent on the last-named building, which would be sufficient for the accommodation and custody of all the less aggravated form of offenders.

4. *The Surveyor General.*

The aggregate amount of expenditure debited to this department during the year 1857 amounts to the large sum of 17,021*l.* 16*s.* 6*d.*, which is divisible into 10,757*l.* 6*s.* 11*d.* for works and buildings, and 6,262*l.* 9*s.* 7*d.* for roads, streets, and bridges.

Works commenced in former years and completed in this have demanded an outlay of 5,291*l.* 7*s.* 7½*d.*, and works still in progress 11,730*l.* 8*s.* 11½*d.*

The principal buildings which have occupied the attention of the Surveyor General have been the Central and West Point Police Stations, both of them important additions to the efficiency of the force, the one in the centre of the town and the other at its western extremity. The markets, of which the two principal are being rebuilt, and four new ones constructed, as are also two substantial slaughterhouses. This will, perhaps, be the most fitting place for me to recall to your remembrance how the large amount of funds have been provided (exceeding 14,000*l.*) required for these alterations. The old market system was perhaps as faulty a one as could have existed. Portions of Crown lands had been granted to lessees, on condition of their erecting markets thereon and paying a certain annual rental. But it had not been provided that the whole of such land should be devoted to market purposes, and consequently the lessees appropriated a considerable portion of it to building houses thereon totally unconnected with the market, but which paid them very remunerative rents, while the markets proper remained in a disgraceful state of dilapidation, were carved out into separate monopolies, and were but of secondary importance to the lessees. One of the leases falling in in September last, it was resolved to take the whole market system into the hands of the Government. It was further resolved to sell such of the above-mentioned houses as were distinct from the only two then existing markets, the central and western, and apply the amount thereby realized in perfecting the new market arrangement. That sale realized the singularly large sum of 14,822*l.* 14*s.* 4*d.* or thereabouts; and when I mention that the amounts received from the markets notwithstanding such sale, and before the additional markets have been opened, considerably exceeds the old market revenue, the wisdom of the change demands no comment, for we shall exchange the old markets, such as I have

HONG KONG.

described, and contributing but slightly to our exchequer, for six markets and two slaughterhouses in a perfect state of repair, and yet the colonial treasury will not have been called upon to expend a shilling, and reports an already increased market rental.

Returning from this somewhat long digression, there is but one other point connected with the Surveyor General's department to which I would wish to allude. That one is the imperative necessity of commencing at an early day a thorough water supply to the town. In England this might be left to private enterprise; here it must be taken in hand by the Government or altogether neglected; and I fervently hope that there will be no great delay in the matter, for the continuance of a long drought, such as occurred within the last seven years, would, I really believe, threaten the very existence of this fast-growing community. We have now a permanent town population of nearly 40,000 souls entirely dependent on a few mountain streams.

I would very earnestly press this danger upon your Excellency, because its possibility presents itself to me each succeeding year as I see the houses extending now east and now west, and yet nothing done to prevent the also increasing diminution of our water supply during the dry season.

A famine of water would destroy all the progress that has been made during the last five years. An expenditure of about 20,000*l.*, to be easily raised on loan at a moderate rate of interest, such interest to be charged on the rental of the Crown lands, would render us for ever secure.

5. *Registrar General.*

As the coloured population exceed the white in this community in the proportion of about 54 to 1, and everything connected with the Chinese, who compose nine tenths of the former class, passes more or less through this department, it is virtually the most important in the colony. I cannot speak in too high praise of the manner in which the present Registrar General discharges all his duties; and it is a pleasant duty incumbent on me to have to record that I am convinced your Excellency has no more zealous and certainly not so efficient a subordinate under your orders. The population returns furnished from this department have been prepared with unusual care this year, and after a close personal inspection of them I think I may say they can be taken as very fairly correct. The gross amount of inhabitants shows an increase of about 5,000 over the preceding year, and that chiefly in the boat population; but this comparison is scarcely to be relied on, and therefore it may be sufficient to say that there is hardly a vacant house to be found of any description in the town of Victoria, and that rents have gone up at least 30 per cent., for there can be no surer criterion than this of the present flourishing state of the colony.

I would, however, wish to point out one or two facts to be elicited from these lists; the first of which, that the average proportion of Chinese females to males is far higher than it has ever previously been, a result only to be produced from the colony being at last considered a home by the natives, and not a mere place of business; the other point is one of painful interest, and forces the conclusion on me that the killing of female infants must be a widely prevailing crime among our rural and boat population.

In the town districts, we find,

Boys - -	3254	Girls - -	3547

In the rural population,

Boys - - -	464	Girls - - -	341

In the boats,

Boys - -	4212	Girls - -	2348

I would fain attribute such a remarkable difference to another cause than the one above stated, but I am unable to do so. A comparison of the returns of the last nine years presents the same feature, and even shows the disproportion to be rather increasing than diminishing.

6. *Colonial Surgeon.*

All things are changed for the better, and will doubtless so continue while we retain the services of our present, active, zealous, and skilful surgeon. The fresh duties which devolved on him at the close of the year with regard to the Lock Hospital have been cheerfully taken in hand, and augur well for the success of that most necessary institution. Dr. Menzies having arrived in the latter half of the year, I shall take upon myself to add

to his report, that 1857 was a more than average unhealthy year, in consequence, I believe, of the failure of the usual amount of rain, but still, on the whole, there is every reason to believe that the colony is gradually improving in salubrity, however bad may be the character that it bears in this respect at home. HONG KONG.

7. *Imports and Exports.*

I have deviated from the usual custom of adding to the Blue Book tables of the supposed imports and exports, because, after a careful investigation, I am convinced no reliance can be placed on such returns in this colony. We have no custom-house machinery here of any description whatsoever, and no means of ascertaining whether the lists furnished by captains of ships are true or false. Such being the case, I think it preferable, in a document of so much importance as the Blue Book, to avoid anything which may possibly mislead, and will merely add that there is every reason to believe far larger trade operations have taken place within the colony in 1857 than in any preceding year.

8. *Education.*

It is with the utmost pleasure that I can at last say that the Government education of Chinese children throughout this colony shows signs of healthy vitality. It must have been a painful subject in former years to notice how little was done in this respect; but now that the services of Mr. Lobscheid have been permanently secured, to superintend the whole system, I believe that a new era has commenced. Your Excellency is aware of my having personally visited all these schools throughout the island, and that inspection has satisfied me that if a prudent liberality in the employment of competent native teachers is persevered in the rising generation of our Chinese fellow subjects will not be such aliens to us in feelings and habits as the great bulk of our population is at present. It is only through the native schools that this very desirable change can be introduced; and I would hope that the expenditure on their account in future years will be on a somewhat larger scale than has hitherto been the case. With an aggregate amount of 7,586 children of the land population, to say nothing of 6,560 belonging to the boats, a daily attendance of less than 500 is hardly a result to be alluded to with satisfaction, after we have held this island for 15 years; but I am afraid that I must remark that there is not at present accommodation for more, and that until proper schoolrooms are erected at the public expense this number can hardly be increased. The committee refer to the report of Mr. Lobscheid, as being appended to their own. The Bishop has gone on a visit to the ports, without returning such report, and I am therefore unable to lay it before your Excellency on this occasion.

Having thus brought to the notice of your Excellency all the more salient points bearing on the Blue Book, I am almost afraid that I have exceeded the limits of an official report of this nature, but if I have done so I trust your Excellency will pardon me, and attribute my error to the very great interest I take in the colony.

LABUAN. LABUAN.

No. 38.

COPY of DESPATCH from Governor the Hon. GEORGE EDWARDES to the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE.

(No. 19.) Government Office, Labuan, 29th April 1858.

SIR, (Received July 20th, 1858.)

I HAVE the honour to forward the blue book for the year 1857.

I regret that the returns do not exhibit any improvement in the condition of the colony. I consider, however, that I am justified in repeating that its depression does not prove that the colony will be less advantageous than was anticipated on its establishment. It is however shown that the mere fact of hoisting the British flag does not suffice to draw capital and enterprise, to establish a trade, and secure prosperity. An improvement can be shown in the immediate vicinity of the town, which has been, to a certain extent, cleared, drained, and levelled.

LABUAN.

I have not derived the full benefit I looked for from the sixty Hong Kong convicts, though, apparently, as reported, an efficient body of men. Whether from their previous life, or the effects of their treatment on the passage here (which I have reason to believe was severe), their constitutions were so impaired that ailments, considered insignificant, such as diarrhœa and ulcers, proved in almost every case incurable. Although employed in draining, the cases of fever have been comparatively few and trifling, except with those who had never rallied from other ailments. Viewing the necessity of the case, and the submissive conduct of the men, their chains were removed soon after their arrival, and a liberal diet of fresh meat allowed, as labor was the object. The advantage is now apparent in the improved condition of the men, in their ability and ready compliance with what is required of them. I hope to secure forty able bodies, a force too inadequate for the work to be done.

I desire to draw your attention, sir, to the great falling off, I may say, extinction, of our trade with the coast of Borneo, and the isolated position in which we stand, at times almost destitute of supplies, amply afforded on my first arrival,—now trebled and quadrupled in cost. It is the result I anticipated soon after the arrival of the Consul General, and easy to foresee when Mr. St. John was withdrawn from Sarawak, and ordered to reside in Bruné. The Pangerans of the several rivers prohibit all traffic with Labuan. Their produce must be taken to Bruné. The same compulsion forbids the intercourse which heretofore supplied our labouring class. Boats have come over to endeavour to remove some of the few who remain, and who do not fail to take advantage of the necessitous demand for hands. What influence the Governor of Labuan had with the Sultan to counteract these measure is subverted. If this system is to be carried on a population must be sought elsewhere. I am at present endeavouring, through a Chinese house, to obtain an importation from some rural districts in China. I beg to have your support, Sir, in carrying out this object.

Of the coal properties I am able to speak more favourably,—the seam at Tanjong Kubong is now secure, and I am engaged in examining another seam within half a mile to the south, very advantageously situated, which I expect will prove to be valuable. The quality is good, and the extent promises to be equal to the one now open. The two combined would form most productive works, and place the prosperity of this Colony beyond the influence of all adversity.

I conclude, Sir, with a few remarks on the climate. The season has been most unpropitious and sickness, *i.e.* fever, fearfully prevalent,—the type again assuming more of the remittent than intermittent character. All Europeans, male and female have been attacked; one case, a female in my own establishment, fatally; and I have lost an old and most valued servant. The Chinese and Natives have been almost equally sufferers, this applies particularly to the Victoria district; at Tanjong Kubong coal works health has been preserved. Were I to give the state of the military as a proof of our condition, it would be, indeed, startling. The assistant-surgeon's report, now before me, gives a return of nine hundred and nine cases, of which six hundred and forty-five were fever, treated in hospital last year, ten deaths, twelve have been invalided, of whom three died on their passage to Singapore, strength one hundred and forty-five. I do not give this as a report upon the climate of Labuan; I cannot withhold the statement. I think I can explain the cause. As regards the Europeans and other inhabitants of the Victoria district, the condition of the land undoubtedly generates the fever; it would, in my opinion, be so in any climate, how much more under the effects of a tropical sun,—the remedy will be found in clearing and draining. On the Government lies the obligation to make and maintain the main drains, to clear the jungle from all lands in their possession, where its present state affects the health of the community. In this work I am now engaged to the utmost of my resources. The much greater proportion of land in the district is sold (some to Government officers and employés, other lots to absentees, or to persons unable or unwilling to incur any expense,) under obligation to occupy or improve within three years, which has not been done in parts most affecting the salubrity of the place. Hitherto I have been unable to act, as the Government had been equally negligent of its duties, and now, the scarcity of labour precludes all improvement, even were the proprietors so inclined. Till the work is done the fever must still remain with us. When the jungle is young the expense even then would be of small account, and with a saw mill the value of the timber could be brought to meet the charge of removal from land, which requires no drainage and is well adapted for cultivation. In ignorance of our fate I can only consider these matters, unable to further them, by applying for your assistance. With regard to the troops, were all done that is required their condition must be bad; the material is of the most indifferent quality; they come here unwillingly; they have not an object in view or occupation on hand; their life is listless and dissatisfied; they deny

909 cases.
645 fever.
10 deaths.
12 invalided.
Strength 145.

themselves the food absolutely necessary for health; they consume bhang and opium, and it needs no more to account for their wretched state. As a force they have been utterly useless ever since I have been here; the artillery could not work two guns, and, as the assistant-surgeon reports, not half of those on duty could march across the island, and not one be fit for anything when arrived there. I cannot get them even to keep their own parade in order, which was cleared and drained for them by the convicts.

At Tanjong Kubong Coal Works, during the last two months, when the work falling upon the six Europeans by day and night, has been most severe, they have been free from sickness. With the natives, Chinese and Seidies, at times equally hard tasked, cases of fever have been very rare. As it might be, wholesome food, abstinence from excess and deleterious drugs, occupation for body and mind, life would be as safe here, I am convinced, as anywhere. In the present state of the Victoria district, the strongest may fall at any time. With the mind distressed or the body afflicted from any cause no one can be safe from fever. Anxiety and distress laid me open to the attack, and though seasoned by constant exposure, I did not escape.

Should it be decided that the colony is to be retained, it must not be viewed as a ten years' settlement, but be considered in its earliest infancy, and find the support it needs.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. H. Labouchere, &c. &c.

(Signed) GEORGE EDWARDES.

PART VI.

MEDITERRANEAN POSSESSIONS AND IONIAN ISLANDS.

PART VI.—MEDITERRANEAN POSSESSIONS AND IONIAN ISLANDS.

Gibraltar.

GIBRALTAR.

No. 39.

No. 39.

Extract of a DESPATCH from Governor Lieutenant General Sir James Fergusson to Secretary the Right Hon. Major-General Peel.

"Gibraltar, March 3, 1858.

"*Military Works.*

"These are constantly progressing under the commanding officer of the Royal Engineers, and, during the year, a very comfortable barrack for 400 men has been completed, and occupied by the troops. The officers' quarters to be attached to these barracks are in course of erection.

"I must conclude my Report by repeating what I stated in my Despatch No. 45, dated 11th March 1857, forwarding the 'Blue Book' for 1856, respecting the supply of water:—'Although there is an ample supply of water at all times on the North Front, yet the inhabitants of the upper part of the town are put to much expense in procuring it; and it would be very desirable to form a large tank, partly for the supply of the poorer classes living there, and also for sanitary purposes, by occasionally flushing the drains of this most densely populated part of the town.'

"Plans and Estimates have already been sent in; and this is a work of such necessity that I strongly suggest that a sum of money should be granted for this purpose, and the Work (necessarily occupying much time) begun without delay.

"During the past summer, which followed a very dry winter, the want of sufficient tanks was felt very much, and considerable expense to the public was caused by having to cart water to the different barracks throughout the whole summer—the tanks having been emptied at an early period. Ample rain falls during the winter, the sloping shape of the rock rendering it easy to direct; and the supply of water is of such vital consequence, that I cannot too strongly urge it for the consideration of Her Majesty's Government."

Malta.

MALTA.

No. 40.

Copy of DESPATCH from Major-General Sir Wm. Reid to the Right Hon. Lord Stanley.

(No 42.) Palace, Valetta, March 27, 1858.

My Lord, (Received April 10, 1858.)

I have the honour to transmit herewith the Blue Book of Malta for the year 1857, together with a statement by the late Auditor General in regard to the local revenue and expenditure during that year.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. Lord Stanley, (Signed) WM. REID,

&c. &c. &c. Governor.

The AUDITOR GENERAL'S STATEMENT of the FINANCIAL CONDITION of MALTA, to accompany the "Blue Book" for the year 1857. GIBRALTAR.

The following view is offered of the gross Revenue of Malta, received during the five years immediately preceding the one to which the present statement relates:—

1852	£127,728	Yearly Average £128,542.
1853	123,305	
1854	123,771	
1855	126,738	
1856	141,168	
Fractions	2	

2. The gross receipt of Revenue for the year 1857 is 132,681*l.* 19*s.* 11¼*d.*, being 8,426*l.* less than the amount derived in 1856;—a difference which will be found nearly accounted for under the head of Customs. In last year's statement, the large receipt of the Customs was assigned to circumstances connected with the transition from a state of war to one of peace—a cause which has not operated in 1857. As compared with the other years, this year stands in a most favourable point of view; and the aggregate of its receipts is such as to indicate a high degree of internal prosperity, uninfluenced by extraordinary causes.

3. For the expenditure of the year, a provision of 122,203*l.* 7*s.* 3*d.* was made on the general estimate prepared in 1856, and 19,569*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.* on supplementary estimates, making together a supply of 141,772*l.* 9*s.* 9*d.*; and the total sum expended within the year has been 134,442*l.* 17*s.* 0¼*d.*

4. Thus the expenditure has exceeded the Revenue by 1,760*l.* 17*s.* 1*d.*, reducing the surplus revenue of 45,021*l.* 17*s.* 0¾*d.* stated last year, to 43,260*l.* 19*s.* 11¾*d.* remaining at the end of 1857.

5. This surplus is available for future use, in addition to the current collections of revenue. It will be partly required for the completion of works already commenced or undertaken, which may involve a further outlay to the extent of nearly 12,000*l.*; and the remainder will be applicable to any new work or service, including any further sum that may be required for the clearance of the fortifications from civil occupants, or to make good any deficiency in the estimated value.

(Signed) WM. HY. THORNTON,
Auditor-General.

Audit Office, Valetta,
February 18, 1858.

IONIAN ISLANDS.

IONIAN ISLANDS

No. 41.

No. 41.

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Right Hon. Sir JOHN YOUNG, Bart., to the Right Hon. Sir E. BULWER LYTTON, Bart.

(No. 77.)

Corfu, July 15, 1858.
(Received August 4, 1858.)

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the Blue Book of the Ionian Islands for the year 1857, together with the customary Report.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN YOUNG.

The Right Hon. Sir E. Bulwer Lytton, Bart.
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure in No. 41.

Encl. in No. 41.

REPORT on the Blue Book for the financial year (1857) ending 31st January 1858.

REVENUE.

Increase.

The general revenue of the Ionian Islands in 1856 was 184,646*l.*, and in 1857 it fell to 110,310*l.*; showing a decrease of 74,336*l.*

It is, however, to be recollected, that the accounts of these States are presented only biennially to the Ionian Parliament, which votes a civil list and budget for two years. The revenue of the biennium 1856 and 1857 was 294,956*l.*, that of the preceding biennium (1854 and 1855) was only 265,449*l.*; there is, therefore, on the biennium just closed, an increase of 29,507*l.*, which proves that the resources of the country are steadily progressing.

IONIAN ISLANDS.

The only items which appear in the comparative statement made in the Blue Book for 1857 (pages 30 and 31) to have increased in amount over that received in 1856, are 103*l.* for export duty on island wines; 414*l.* health office dues; and 59*l.*, to the credit of the packet establishment.

The first item of increase is to be accounted for by a greater quantity of island wines having been exported in 1857 then in 1856. The Ionian wines having been recently introduced into the markets of Trieste, Venice, and other ports, have got into greater demand; and the quantity exported will, there is no doubt, gradually increase year by year.

The second item, health office dues, shows an augmentation in consequence of an increase in the arrivals of vessels and passengers in these islands during the year; and the third item, because the Ionian steamer, since its thorough repair at Malta, has been employed on occasional trips with passengers to the northern and southern points of Corfu.

Decrease.

With the exception of the three items mentioned under the head of Increase, every other source of public revenue has considerably decreased, in comparison with the amount received during the previous year.

It was fully explained in the last report that, as the principal taxes levied in the Ionian Islands are export duties on the staple produce of oil and currants, the public revenue necessarily varies according to the abundance or deficiency of those crops. The olive trees of Corfu produce a good crop only biennially. The harvest of 1855, matured and exported in 1856, was abundant; and that of 1856, matured and exported in 1857, very trifling; consequently, the export duties paid on oil during 1857 show a decrease of above 37,500*l.* when compared with the returns of the previous year. However, this deficiency will, it is expected, be amply compensated by the revenue from the magnificent oil crop of 1857, matured in the current year, a large portion of which has been already exported, and will figure in the report for the next financial year.

The currant crop of 1857 was almost entirely destroyed by the unusual and unfortunate occurrence of heavy falls of rain in Zante and Cephalonia during the month of August last, while the fruit was on the drying grounds. Thus, a considerable source of revenue was lost to the State; and the export duty on currants for the year exhibits a decrease of 26,221*l.*

It was also explained on a former occasion, that abundant crops of oil and currants influence the revenue not only *directly* by augmenting the export duties, but also *indirectly* by enriching the population in general, and so enabling the inhabitants of these states to import and consume a greater quantity of articles subject to duty. Consequently to the deficient produce from oil and currants may be traced also the decrease in 1857 of 1,832*l.* under the head of "Customs," of 2,032*l.* under the head of "Foreign Wines" and "Spirits," of 418*l.* under the head of "Tobacco," of 1,539*l.* under the head of "Foreign Grain," and of considerable sums under other heads. For example, the decrease which will be remarked in the items of stamps, judicial and registration fees, &c. is to be partly explained by the general distress of the land interest. After a plentiful harvest the landlords and other creditors take advantage of the peasants being in better circumstances than usual to compel by legal process the payment of arrears of rent and other similar obligations.

There is a decrease of 162*l.* in the post office revenue, chiefly arising (as was the case at first in England) from the introduction in 1857 of a uniform penny postage in the Ionian Islands. This trifling deficit will, it is confidently expected, be amply compensated for in future years, by the increase of correspondence consequent on the reduction of the rates of postage, and on a considerable increase in the means of internal and external communication.

The decrease of receipts under the head of "Public Instruction," arises principally from reductions in the fees exacted from the students at the university and college.

EXPENDITURE.

Increase.

The increased expenditure under the head of the Legislative Assembly arises from the meeting of that body in session in 1857. There was no session in 1856, the Ionian parliament meeting only biennially under ordinary circumstances, according to the provisions of the constitutional charter.

The increased expenditure under the heads of "Civil and Judicial Establishments" is caused by an augmentation voted by the Assembly in the salaries of the judges and other civil officers. This augmentation became necessary in consequence of the great rise in the price of the provisions and general cost of living in the Ionian Islands, owing to the causes reported last year.

The increase of 1,147*l.* under the head of "Public Works" is occasioned by several new works having been undertaken, partly with the view of enabling the peasantry (who in some districts were almost reduced to starvation by the failure of their crops) to gain a livelihood by their labour.

The increase of 1,531*l.* under the head of Packet Establishment, &c. has been caused by the purchase and repair of several vessels to act as coast guard boats and revenue cutters. It is expected that the outlay thus incurred has been already more than saved by the discouragement of contraband trade and other frauds on the revenue.

An increase of 148*l.* has been caused by the rise in the price of the oil supplied for the lighthouses.

The apparent increase of 1,891*l.* for "Gaols" is caused by a resolution of the Legislative Assembly, which transferred the expenditure for this branch of the service from the municipal funds of the several islands to those of the general government.

Decrease.

The decreased expenditure of 165*l.* under the head of Public Instruction, has been caused by several salaries having, in accordance with the new organization, been reduced.

The decreased expenditure under the head of Executive Police of 304*l.* arises chiefly from a reduction in the price of the clothing for the constables.

There are several small items of variation, caused by casualties, and which require no comment. The large decrease in the expenditure under the head of "Contingencies," arises principally from the disappearance of cholera, and the consequent discontinuance of the extraordinary measures taken during the presence of that epidemic.

Local Revenue.

The local or municipal revenues of the several islands, as stated in former reports, are subject to the same influences and fluctuations as the revenue of the general government. Hence, the sum received from the local revenues in 1857 only amounts to 29,960*l.*, whereas, in the preceding more flourishing year it reached 42,216*l.*

The road tax (which is an impost of 1½ per cent. *ad valorem* on exports) produced upwards of 12,000*l.* in 1856, but hardly exceeded 6,000*l.* in 1857.

Public Debt.

At the close of the financial year 1856 the public debt of the Ionian Islands amounted to 230,486*l.* At the close of the financial year 1857 it amounted to 241,427. There has been, therefore, an increase of 10,491*l.* rendered indispensable by the deficiency of the public revenue, owing to the causes stated above. It is expected that the abundant oil crop and revenue of 1858 will put the Government in a position to pay off some portion of the debt.

Military Contribution.

In consequence of the deficiency of revenue during 1857, 6,000*l.* of the military contribution had not been paid at the close of the financial year. But this debt was liquidated shortly afterwards, and the entire amount of 25,000*l.* due for 1857 has now been fully discharged.

Judicial Establishment.

In this establishment there has been no material change during the year, except a small increase in the salaries voted by the Assembly to the judges and other officers as stated above.

Ecclesiastical Establishment.

The only change in this branch is a small addition made to the salaries of the several Bishops

IONIAN ISLANDS.

Education.

This branch of the public service is in a transition state. It is as yet too soon to report on the probable results of the new organization introduced by an Act of the Ionian Parliament passed in 1857. In a merely pecuniary point of view, the resources arising from this department have diminished, in consequence of a considerable reduction having been made in the amount of contribution to be paid by the students, but it is hoped that the system will work better than in times past, and that the public and government will obtain ultimately manifold advantages from the reforms introduced. The nature of these changes is explained below, under the head of "General Legislation."

Population.

Since 1856, when a careful census of the Ionian population was taken, the population has increased. In 1856 the number reached 227,106, whereas at the close of 1857 the total was 227,230.

In the years immediately preceding 1856, the population had (as already reported) sensibly decreased, owing to the visitation of the cholera in 1855, and to the absence of large numbers of Ionians as camp followers during the Russian war in the Crimea, and at the various military and naval establishments of the Allies in the Levant.

Agriculture.

The agricultural interest in Zante and Cephalonia, has received a heavy blow from the almost total destruction of the currant crop, owing to the heavy rains which fell in August 1857 while the fruit was on the drying grounds, but not yet fit for shipping. The disease which has devastated the vineyards throughout the south of Europe for several years past continues to show itself in the currant vines (*vitis corinthiaca*) with scarcely diminished virulence.

The landed proprietors, impoverished by the failures in their harvests during seven successive years, find great difficulty in providing sufficient quantities of sulphur, which experience has proved to be the only antidote against this epidemic. Moreover, the great increase in the cultivation of currants in various parts of the kingdom of Greece, and more especially in the Peloponnesus, has tended to lower the value of this staple produce of the Southern Ionian Islands. The production here has grown to exceed the consumption which is almost entirely confined to Great Britain, Holland, and some parts of the United States of America. The Greek government contemplate a material reduction in their export duties on currants; and proposals of the same nature will probably be laid before the Ionian Parliament during the session of 1859.

The unusual severity of last winter has inflicted considerable damage on the orange and lemon trees. Still, with the above important exceptions, the agriculture of the Ionian Islands continues to prosper; an increasing quantity of arable land is brought under cultivation in each succeeding year. This is especially the case at Corfu. The rapidly increasing trade of that island, and of its chief town, the capital of the Ionian States, tends powerfully to promote agricultural enterprise.

The supply in fact is as yet scarcely equal to the growing demand for fresh meat, poultry, vegetables, fruit, &c., caused by numerous passenger steamers which now enter this port from all parts of the Mediterranean. Hence arise chiefly the continued dearness of provisions, and the greatly augmented cost of living, disadvantages which it is hoped will gradually disappear in consequence of the rapid extension of market gardens, of the import trade in cattle and sheep, and of a fuller supply of farm produce of all kinds.

Commerce.

The experience of another year confirms the favourable report in the Blue Book for 1856, as to the general development of the trade of the Ionian Islands. The inhabitants of the small island of Ithaca, containing a population of only 13,000 souls, have, with the assistance of the general government, erected in their harbour a building slip for large vessels, such as those used in the trade with the Black Sea, and which have hitherto been built at Syra and other ports of the Levant.

The commerce of Corfu in particular continues steadily to increase. This port is now entered regularly by lines of merchant steamers under the English, Austrian, Dutch and Greek flags. The establishment of communication by electric telegraph with Malta, and thence with the rest of Europe, affords additional facilities to the commercial body of this island. Direct electric telegraphs are also projected between Corfu and Trieste, Alexandria and Athens. In a short time this island will be the centre of telegraphic communication as it is already of steam navigation in the Eastern Mediterranean. At present the telegrams from India are forwarded from Egypt to Corfu at the same time as to Malta, and frequently reach this island first.

General Legislation.

Twenty-two Acts were passed during 1857, in the first session of the eleventh Ionian Parliament. They may be divided according to the following heads :—

A. *Commerce and Navigation.*

Act No. 2. facilitates the purchase and transfer of vessels under the Ionian flag. The British consular authorities are empowered to give Ionian vessels passes which may remain valid for twelve months.

Act No. 7. grants to English merchant steamers certain privileges formerly accorded to the steamers of the Austrian Lloyd's Company.

Act No. 9.; with the object of encouraging the building and repair of ships within the Ionian States, the necessary materials are exempted from duty.

Act No. 14. guarantees to a steam company in Cephalonia, for 10 years, an interest of 5 per cent. on its capital of 30,000 dollars.

Act No. 17. modifies certain custom house duties, and reduces the tariff of health office and harbour fees.

B. *Finances.*

Act No. 3. establishes a new system of civil pensions, but guarantees the vested rights acquired under former laws.

Act No. 13. introduces a uniform system of postage, after the English fashion, with prepayment by stamps.

Act No. 15. renders obligatory the commutation in money of the payments in kind formerly made from certain portions of the Government property.

Act No. 22. grants small salaries to the members of the municipal councils in the country districts.

C. *Justice.*

Act No. 1. curtails the jurisdiction of the district judges. The Ionian Parliament is desirous to abolish the country courts established by Lord Seaton, and to centralize the administration of justice in the chief town of each island.

Act No. 5. facilitates the publication in the southern islands of the sentences of the Supreme Court of Corfu.

Act No. 6. establishes elective councils of merchants to act as assessors to judges in certain commercial cases.

Act No. 8. extends the power of appeal from the sentences of the police courts.

Act No. 10. modifies the criminal law in certain cases.

Act No. 16. modifies the laws respecting forced sales of the property of debtors.

Act No. 18. regulates the transfer of property in certain cases.

Act No. 21. modifies the laws in force for the payment of injuries done to rural property.

D. *Public Instruction.*

Act No. 20. This is the most important Act passed in the session of 1857. The public educational establishments of the States henceforward consist in an university at Corfu, which grants degrees in the four faculties of theology, law, medicine, and arts; in a college (or higher collegiate school) also at Corfu; in a *Lyceum*, or grammar school, in each of the seven islands; and in numerous primary schools in all the principal villages. The former commission of public instruction is abolished, and the department is placed under the general control and superintendence of a Director General with the title of Archon. An annual sum of 12,000*l.* is voted permanently for the expenses of this department.

E. *Religion.*

Act No. 12. exempts from duty gifts presented from abroad to the principal churches of the Ionian Islands.

F. *Public Health.*

Act No. 4. prohibits under penalties the use of deleterious substances in the manufacture or colouring of sweetmeats and liqueurs.

Act No. 11. provides for the appointment of medical officers and district dispensaries, for the gratuitous assistance of the poorer classes of the population.

G. F. BOWEN,
Secretary to the Lord High Commissioner.

Palace, Corfu,
10th July 1858.

PART VII.

HELIGOLAND.

HELIGOLAND.

No. 42. (No. 10.) No 42.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieut.-Governor R. PATTINSON to the Right Honourable Lord STANLEY.

Heligoland, 18 March 1858.
(Received March 24, 1858.)

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the Blue Book for Heligoland, which, owing to the numerically small statistical details, your Lordship may be aware is only triennially furnished.

2. I shall have the honour to address your Lordship very shortly upon the important interests of this island, which depend more particularly upon the protection and preservation of Sandy Island, now rapidly wasting away by the action of the sea, and upon which vital and important question the inhabitants of Heligoland have requested me to forward a petition to your Lordship, which it will be my duty to furnish as soon as I receive their next report.

3. In the meantime, I should wish to bring to your Lordship's notice that I am mainly indebted to my secretary, Mr. Henry Gätke, for his exertions, and the assistance he has afforded me in making up these details, which I believe to be now very accurately furnished, and with the very little assistance afforded by the local and responsible authorities.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. PATTINSON,
Lieut-Governor.

The Right Hon. Lord Stanley.
&c. &c. &c.

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

No. 43. No. 43.

(No. 11.) Government House, Stanley, Falkland Islands, February 15, 1858.
(Received May 12, 1858.)

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to enclose the Blue Book for the year 1857.

2. It is satisfactory to be able to point out an increase in the number of ships, both British and Foreign, which have availed themselves of the advantages here offered for refit, watering, and refreshment. In this increase will be found the prosperity and use of the settlement founded here.

3. Among the vessels so repaired here I may mention Her Majesty's steam frigate "Retribution," which put in last winter to repair her rudder, without which repair she could not have proceeded on her voyage. The nearest ports on the South American shore, where such repair could have been executed, would have delayed her voyage at least a month beyond her detention here. The case of the American ship "Great Republic," (with a cargo of 4,000 tons of guano, valued at 40,000*l.*, for London,) I have before incidentally mentioned. This vessel, with several others, was damaged seriously in the neighbourhood of Cape Horn, and were enabled, after refitting here, to pursue their respective voyages.

4. The lighthouse on Cape Pembroke has proved of acknowledged benefit, and many shipmasters have spoken of its advantages.

5. The renewal of the Mail Contract has given a fresh impetus to the trade of the Colony, but as I have had so lately the honour to report on this subject I need not again notice it.

6. Some attempts at a more extended cultivation of gardens have been made at Stanley with considerable success, and the supply of vegetables will soon, I trust, be equal to the

demand; and, in the meantime, it is satisfactory that the owners of gardens have reaped a fair profit from their exertions.

7. The sheep-farms both at Hope Place and Port Louis have placed beyond a doubt the entire adaptability of much of the Island for sheep pasture, and the improvement of the South American sheep by crossing with imported English rams has been rapid and encouraging.

I have, &c.

THOS. E. MOORE,
Governor

The Right Hon. Henry Labouchere, M.P.
&c. &c. &c.

LONDON :
Printed by GEORGE E. EYRE and WILLIAM SPOTTISWOODE,
Printers to the Queen's most Excellent Majesty.
For Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

THE

REPORTS

Made for the Year 1858 *to the Secretary of State having the Department of the Colonies; in continuation of the Reports annually made by the Governors of the British Colonies, with a view to exhibit generally*

THE PAST AND PRESENT STATE

OF

HER MAJESTY'S COLONIAL POSSESSIONS.

TRANSMITTED WITH THE BLUE BOOKS
For the Year 1858.

PART I.—WEST INDIES AND MAURITIUS.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
July 1860.



LONDON:
PRINTED BY GEORGE EDWARD EYRE AND WILLIAM SPOTTISWOODE,
PRINTERS TO THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.
FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE.
1860.

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WEST INDIES AND MAURITIUS.

JAMAICA.

No. 1

JAMAICA.

No. 1.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor C. H. DARLING to his Grace the DUKE OF NEWCASTLE.

(No. 32.)

King's House, Jamaica, February 16, 1860,
(Received March 17, 1860.)

MY LORD DUKE,

I MUCH regret that it has again become necessary for me to apologize for the unusual delay that has occurred in transmitting the "Blue Book," which document, for the year 1858, I have now the honour to forward.

2. Although there is great difficulty at all times in obtaining returns from the parochial authorities and the various miscellaneous sources to which the Governor's secretary is obliged to apply for the information necessary to the compilation of the "Blue Book," and much time is lost in subsequent references, in order to ensure their greater accuracy, yet the "Blue Book" would have been completed some months ago if the return of imports and exports from the Customs Department had been supplied.

3. The books of that department are so kept as to render it necessary to go through and re-arrange all the items of entry, in order to produce a return in the form now required for the Blue Book. This is, no doubt, a work involving much trouble, and requiring great accuracy. The completion of the return was frequently urged upon the department during the year 1859; and by the correspondence, of which the enclosed is a copy, your Grace will perceive that I was obliged to adopt the most stringent measures in order to obtain it, and that I have taken steps which I trust will effectually prevent the recurrence of similar delay in this branch of the public service.

4. Under the circumstances I have explained, I venture to forward the Blue Book without a special Report, proposing to notice its details in conjunction with those for the year 1859, the Blue Book for which I hope it will be in the power of the Governor's secretary to complete at a period more in accordance with the regulations of the colonial service than has latterly been found feasible.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. H. DARLING.

His Grace The Duke of Newcastle,
&c. &c.

HONDURAS.

HONDURAS.

No. 2.

No. 2.

COPY of DESPATCH from Governor DARLING to His Grace the Duke of NEWCASTLE.

(No. 35.)

King's House, Jamaica, July 23, 1859.
(Received August 17, 1859.)

MY LORD DUKE,

I HAVE the honor to transmit the Blue Book for the settlement of Honduras for the year 1858, together with Mr. Superintendent Seymour's Despatch, reporting on the same, which appears to enter fully into all matters therein contained that require explanation.

No. 54. of June 22, 1859.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. H. DARLING.

His Grace the Duke of Newcastle,
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure in No. 2.

(No. 54.)

SIR, Belize, June 22, 1859.

ADVERTING to my Despatch No. 53, of the 17th instant, I have now the honor to forward a report on the contents of the Blue Book of this settlement for the year 1858.

Taxes.

The perpetual taxes are those imposed by the constitutional Act 16 Vict. cap. 4, namely, a duty of one per cent. ad valorem on all articles imported; an additional fixed duty of 2*s.* a gallon on spirits, and a duty of 2*s.* a ton on all vessels entering the port of Belize unprovided with a coasting licence. These tonnage dues appear high, but the vessel paying them receives compensation in the admirable system of lights and buoys by which the access to the ports of the settlement is facilitated. The Civil List, including the salaries of the Superintendent, Chief Justice, Secretary, Treasurer, and Clergy, forms a first charge upon the proceeds of these taxes. The surplus is appropriated to the ordinary expenses of the public service. The revenue, however, derived from these sources has proved of late years insufficient to meet the expenditure of the settlement, enormously increased as it has been by the necessity of rebuilding the many government edifices recently destroyed by fire. In addition, therefore, to the one per cent. import duty, fixed and moderate rates are levied by annual enactment on sugar, tea, coffee, tobacco, lumber, and some other articles of less importance. In 1855 there was again additionally imposed, by an Act, with a duration of three years, an extra duty of two and a half per cent. on unenumerated articles, the proceeds being specifically appropriated to the re-erection of the destroyed public buildings. This Act expiring in 1858, was renewed for one year, but without any special legislative appropriation of the funds derived from it. Thus the duty on unrated articles, among which are to be found flour, beef, pork, and all "dry goods," has for the last four years been three and a half per cent. This, with the other moderate taxes above mentioned, would have been amply sufficient for the year 1858, though the fire damages are not yet fully repaired, but for the diminution in trade consequent on the failure in June and July of some of the largest commercial houses connected with this settlement, and but for the development which the cultivation of the sugar cane has recently taken, whereby the import duties on spirits and sugar have greatly fallen off. The loss thus sustained has been but ill supplied by the excise imposed on these articles when manufactured in the settlement; which bearing the relation towards the import duty of 2*s.* per 100 lbs. to 8*s.* on sugar, and of 9*d.* to 3*s.* a gallon spirits, has practically acted as a protection on the home manufactures, which have consequently taken possession of the local market as regards the supply of brown sugar, rum, and the commoner description of cordials.

The only other heads of public income to which I need here call attention are the licences to retail spirits, and the fees on tickets of residence taken out by aliens. Neither of these is very productive; but the latter is remarkable as being the only direct tax imposed. The registration of foreigners is desired principally for police purposes, but it is evaded, and the annual dollar saved by hundreds, probably thousands, of Spanish Mexicans and Mexican Indians residing within our territory, who rarely, if ever, visit the more settled districts where the machinery for the registration and issue of tickets exists. I annex a return forwarded to me by the Clerk of the Courts, which will show that we are not unreasonable in endeavouring to establish some sort of supervision over our Central American and Mexican immigrants:—

Expenses on committals, trials, and pursuit of aliens during 1858 -	$1544.2
Expenses on committals, trials, and pursuit of British subjects (including Africans) - - - - - - -	$119.7
Vouchers not showing on what account the amounts have been drawn - - - - - - - - -	$79.6

If even when repairing the injuries inflicted on their chief town by a great conflagration, the people of Honduras were so lightly taxed, it may be conjectured how comfortable is their ordinary condition. They have, however, acquired this happy immunity from heavy burdens to a considerable extent at the expense of their neighbours. Belize, having the advantages of a good harbour and of political tranquillity, naturally became the centre to which the buyers and sellers of Southern Mexico, Guatemala, and Honduras resorted. The local Government availed themselves of this commercial dependence, and charged on articles imported for the use of the neighbouring republics,

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once landed in Belize, the same amount of duty as if entered for domestic consumption. In the days of great prosperity, the one per cent. duty sufficed for all purposes, and was hardly felt by the foreign exporter; but as market after market failed,—Guatemala acquiring steam communication between its Pacific ports and Panama, South Yucatan losing all purchasing power by the—probably final—triumph of the Aztecs over the whites,—a comparatively heavy pressure was placed upon the internal consumer, and on those customers, Truxillo, Omoa, and Yzabal which remained. But latterly the three and a half per cent. transient duty drove even them to attempt to import directly from Europe or the United States what they required.

The legislation of 1859, which, however, can only be incidentally referred to in this communication, commenced a better system by the granting of drawbacks in certain cases.

Fees.

The office fees are generally too high. A bill to remodel them was read three times in the House of Assembly during its recent session, but owing to the inadvertence of the Clerk of the House was not forwarded to me before I prorogued.

Revenue and Expenditure.

There was a falling off of 2,953*l.* 4*s.* in the revenue, though the taxes were identical with those of the preceding year. The causes of this decline have been already mentioned. Failures of mercantile firms in England. Increase of sugar cultivation in the settlement. Annihilation of the Spanish Mexicans on our frontier. It will, however, be observed that the returns filled up by the Treasurer in the Blue Book indicate an apparent increase in the receipts. There is a sum of 5,672*l.* 15*s.* 9*d.* entered in the return for 1858 under the head of "Special Revenue," whereas no such item appears in the statistics of previous years. The reason of this is as follows: the act of 1855, already described, imposed certain taxes, whose proceeds were specifically appropriated by the Act itself. With the consent of my predecessor, the approval of the public auditors and the House of Assembly, the moneys received under this Act were kept entirely distinct, and the balance in hand carried forward to the credit of the same account at the close of each year, and, under the authority aforesaid, not entered as revenue. But this Act expired in February, 1858; and, as the taxing clauses were then renewed without the appropriation clauses, the receipts lost their special and distinctive character, and the unexpended balance from 1857 appears in the financial statement of 1858 as so much additional money available for the ordinary exigencies of the Executive Government.

Local Revenues raised under the Authority of any Municipal Body not accounted for in the General Revenue.

There are none such in British Honduras. All the expenses of the settlement are defrayed from the public treasury.

Public Debt.

None.

Expenditure by Great Britain for Military Protection and in Aid of the Civil Establishment.

The military expenditure on account of this settlement was considerably increased in 1858, while that in Jamaica was, I presume, diminished to a corresponding extent, by the increase force detached from the garrison of that island for the protection of our territory under the very alarming circumstances which attended the subversion of Mexican authority on our frontier. No aid is afforded by the imperial treasury towards the support of the civil establishment. The only institution carried on at the expense of the home Government is the post office, and the receipts more than cover the disbursements.

Public Works.

The new gaol and school buildings were completed within the year. Extensive repairs were made to St. John's and St. Mary's Churches, the Government House and the parsonage in Belize. The system of streets throughout the burnt district on the north side of the town was altered very greatly for the better. The channel leading from the outer to the inner harbour of this town was deepened by means of a dredging machine.

Legislation.

Twenty-three Acts were passed in the session of 1858. Of the majority of these it is not necessary that I should even repeat the titles. There were various measures passed to repair errors pointed out by the Secretary of State as existing in previous legislation. The usual taxing and appropriating Acts; Acts to establish volunteer rifle corps in the northern district and in Belize, of which I can only say that the first failed from the fear which possessed the Yucatecan immigrants that they might be called upon to defend their new homes against the Maya Indians who had driven them from their former ones, and that the arms for the Belize volunteers only reached the settlement in 1859, damaged by shipwreck. But some of the Acts of the session deserve more particular notice. Chapters 7 and 10, for instance, which provide for the simplifying of titles to land.

In the early days of the settlement, when the woodcutters exercised their calling in Honduras under cover of treaties between the Crowns of England and of Spain, there were no laws or regulations to prescribe the mode of distribution of land or govern its possession, except such as the settlers, after having in public meeting declared themselves "adequate" to the purpose, made. A person who discovered an unoccupied tract of country whereon was to be found logwood or mahogany, took formal possession by erecting a grindstone, felling a tree, and boiling a pot. Water carriage being essential to the success of the operations of the mahogany cutter, every location was taken upon a navigable river or "creek." It had a base on the water of three miles and ran back eight miles, unless some other navigable water should be found within less than sixteen miles, in which event the two streams divided the interjacent lands between them. The settler had next to register his location in a book kept for the purpose at St. George's Cay, the then seat of Government, and the forfeiture was repeatedly decreed by the public meeting of all such locations as were not recorded. It is impossible for us now to ascertain how many of these locations were entered in the official books. Repeated conflagrations have destroyed portions of the public records. The confusion attending on the attacks by the Spaniards when war had abrogated all treaties, and the frequent removal of the head quarters of the settlement from St. George's Cay to "Belize River Mouth," and back again, doubtlessly had their share in bringing about the lamentable confusion of our older records.

These locations were dealt with as personal chattels, and the entire, or a portion, often passed from hand to hand by sale, without, in many cases, even the precaution being taken of obtaining a written acknowledgment of the transfer. The confusion of titles became enormously increased by the circumstance that at the time when these locations were made, and, indeed, for upwards of half a century afterwards, it was not the custom here to contract marriage. Wills were seldom made, and the illegitimate children divided their father's and mother's property, among them at death, share and share alike. Even the changes which nature made in the face of the country tended to aggravate this condition of embarrassment. A sudden flood would clear the channel and make navigable a creek across which the side lines of locations had formerly run; and several watercourses, once deemed navigable for timber, ceased to be so in consequence of the increased size which the logs to be floated down took in the beginning of the century on the introduction of "bow-ports" in the vessels employed in the mahogany trade. The uncertainty in regard to titles caused by such laxity in dealing with land was not considered of much importance so long as its only value was held to be in the timber of its spontaneous growth; but when, within recent years, the intrinsic value of the soil became appreciated, the confusion was found most embarrassing to proprietors and detrimental to the progress of the settlement. The Acts upon which I am now reporting do away with the necessity of proving that the locations were recorded, and secures titles by registration; the rights of infants and persons under disability being saved for a limited time.

Chapter 9, passed for a term of one year, authorised the Superintendent to deport from the settlement any persons assisting the rivalry of neighbouring states in its commonest demonstration, the destruction by fire of our towns, or seeking to embroil us in the disputes which those countries perpetually carry on. It has been the lot of Honduras, probably to a greater extent than any other English colony, to become the receptacle of persons driven from their homes by political complications, and of others, including some of the greatest ruffians that the world can produce, whose crimes have made their country unsafe to them. With such residents among us it is desirable to arm the executive with certain powers which the ruler of an Anglo-Saxon community would not desire to possess. The immediate cause, however, of the somewhat despotic measure of 1858 was the conduct of the Spanish Mexicans, who, driven from their own

HONDURAS.

territory by the victorious Maya Indians sought to make of ours a fresh base of operations against them. Parties would cross the Hondo at night to massacre some outpost of their enemies, and return in the morning to us stained with blood. But the power suddenly given to me to banish all such offenders soon checked a practice which must have brought us into collision with the Indians. I was assisted by the circumstance, that of the last expedition from our side of the river no one returned to give an account of what befel. I have only had to make use of my extraordinary powers against two individuals, members of the conspiracy organised in July last for the destruction of Belize.

Chapter 12 makes vaccination, at the public expense, compulsory in some parts of the settlement.

Chapter 13 provides for the better administration of justice in the rural districts. This Act, which gave considerable trouble to the Attorney General and myself, amalgamates some Spanish and English laws, and allows the appointment, by the Superintendent, of certain magistrates to whom, with the title of "Alcalde," are confided many of the powers belonging to similarly designated officials in Mexico, together with the lower duties of the English justice of the peace, and the higher ones of the constable. The Act has not been long in operation, but hitherto it has worked well.

Chapter 20 declares what laws are in force in the settlement, and sweeps away a vast amount of rubbish in the shape of votes and resolutions placed on record by the older public meetings.

Political Franchise.

Electors must be of the age of 21, natural born or naturalized by law, and possessed of real property of 7*l.* sterling annual value, or in occupation of lands or houses at a rental of 7*l.* sterling per annum, and for six months previous to registration in like possession; or shall be at the time of and for six months previous to registration in receipt of an annual salary of 100*l.* sterling.

Pensions and Paupers.

The total expenditure on this account was only 540*l.* 16*s.*

Foreign Consuls.

The republics of Mexico, Salvador, and Guatemala, are represented by Consuls at this port. The agent, however, of the last-named state has now been absent for two years. Spain has a Vice-Consul, and France had in the beginning of the year 1858 a Consular Agent. The gentleman, whose commission as United States Consul was abruptly recalled by the President in 1853, still resides in Belize, where he carries on business as a merchant.

Population.

The population is estimated by the Colonial Secretary at 19,000. In the Blue Book Report for 1857 I expressed my opinion that it was about 21,000; and as 1858 saw the extinction of Mexican authority in South Yucatan, and the survivors from successive Indian massacres driven across the Hondo, I am now disposed to set down the number at 23 or 24,000.

Schools.

Zeal and ability are displayed by Mr. Charles Cuyler, the Chairman of the Board of Education, in the superintendence of the public schools, but as yet his efforts have not been crowned with the success which they deserve. We have undertaken the difficult task of educating the children of uneducated parents; and to the school alone, therefore, in too many cases, is entrusted the whole duty and responsibility of bringing them forward. The associations of the home circle often tend to check the progress of the youthful mind in the right course. In many respects the black and coloured children, who form the majority in the Belize Schools, are very favourably circumstanced. The Free Schools are so liberally and well conducted, that English, Spanish, and Indian boys and girls are induced to enter them, and thus negro vanity, that great bar to all improvement, is kept within reasonable bounds by a competition with minds often honestly and faithfully desirous of improvement. I hear complaints of the withdrawal of so much young labour from the market for the purpose of giving to the children a species of instruction which, in the opinion of many, will never profit them. Perhaps these com-

plaints are not totally devoid of reason, as the present system makes no provision for the following up, after the boy leaves school, of the studies—if so earnest a word can fairly be used—commenced therein. The old settlers point out with a species of satisfaction the collapse in the highly artificial educational acquirements which too frequently takes place under the un ntellectual labours of the mahogany gang. We are endeavouring to establish, to a certain extent, a system new to this place. Our chief care shall be to enable the children to overcome the almost mechanical difficulties which encumber the first stages of instruction. We must next try to induce the able and willing to educate themselves. Instead of labouring to drive on in an even line the idle and the industrious, the boy of ready aptitudes and him whose dull brain becomes fancied and confused in the effort to master the simplest problem, we propose to assume a different position, and by holding out inducements which only the more intellectual would appreciate, draw forward the lad who may live by the labour of his brain or the special skill of his hands, from him who should, for his own benefit, early discover or be taught that he has only his muscles and good temper to depend upon.

Coins and Exchanges.

The accounts of the settlement are kept in dollars at 4*s.*, and rials at 6*d.*, the English shilling circulating for a quarter dollar on a par with the Mexican coin of greater intrinsic worth. The only moneys which have been declared a legal tender are United States gold and English copper. The former by a proclamation issued, subsidiary to that of Her Majesty in Council of the early part of 1854. The latter by a local Act, 12 Vict., cap. 6, which creates it a legal tender to the extent of one shilling in every pound. Happily, however, this Act has become practically inoperative by the disappearance of the copper coins. Though not enjoying any legalized position, Spanish and republican gold and silver, United States and English coins of both metals are freely received by the Treasurer and merchants without limitation as to the amount of each.

Coins in Circulation and Paper Currency.

There is no bank in the settlement, and no paper currency in circulation. Duties are paid at the treasury in bills at 90 days which are redeemed in specie when due. The amount of coin in circulation cannot be ascertained, but must be very considerable for the population.

Imports and Exports.

In 1858, a year of great commercial depression, the value of the imports is stated to have been 207,908*l.* 4*s.*, showing a decrease of 61,783*l.* 8*s.* as compared with the preceding year, and of the exports 380,377*l.* 15*s.*, showing a decrease of 69,894*l.* 3*s.* These figures do not, however, give a correct account of the trade of the settlement. The returns are taken from the Treasurer's books, and it has long been the practice here for that officer to insert in them only such imports as have paid duty, and such exports as are of indigenous growth or manufacture. Therefore, the very considerable carrying trade between this port and those of Yzabal, Truxillo, and Omoa, is nowhere noticed in the Blue Book. The returns would bear a very different appearance if the valuable cargoe of cochineal, silver ore, deer skins, and sarsaparilla, which leave this port were inserted therein.

Vessels entered and cleared.

A large trade in a bulky article like mahogany requires a large tonnage. 186 ships, of an aggregate of 28,722 tons were entered in the year, and very nearly the same number cleared out. It will be seen that the principal exportations have been in English bottoms; but that the North American and Central American Republics, as well as the Baltic States have supplied a considerable tonnage. Of these countries Russia was the most worthily represented by her shipping in 1858. It appears that she can afford to supply new and admirable vessels for a trade which, as far as the English are concerned, has fallen principally to ships of the most antiquated models and the most indifferent sailing qualities. Here, again, I must remark that the statistics are imperfect. Only such vessels as pay tonnage duty are entered in the Blue Book returns. There are a number of schooners owned in Belize which pay an annual commutation in lieu of tonnage dues that enables them to trade without further charges between the very wide limits embraced

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by Cape Catoche on the north, and Cape Gracias à Dios on the south. I find that to the port of Yzabal alone there were 76 voyages made by these vessels in 1858. With both Omoa and Truxillo the trade was probably as considerable, and with the Bay Islands not much less so.

Gaols and Prisoners.

The new gaol is an admirable building, and the greatest number of prisoners confined in it in the year was 49.

General Remarks.

I have endeavoured to give, in the sequence pointed out by the Blue Book, remarks sufficiently explanatory of the progress made by the settlement in 1858. But the annual report in the statistics ought, according to regulation, to contain also an exposition of its present state, or rather of the state of things existing at the close of the year. Honduras being so little known, I fear that this review will take up rather more of your time to read than is desirable. I will, however, be as brief as I can.

The natural features of this territory are so peculiar, and have had so marked an effect in moulding the character and directing the occupations of the people, that I must first notice them. Along the whole of our coast, which extends north and south about 200 miles, at an average distance of from forty to sixty miles runs a perfect breakwater, consisting of cays of every size and shape, from the half-acre patch to the island thirty miles long. Thus Honduras has the advantage of possessing a sea with purifying tides and currents, but no waves. This circumstance, together with its numerous rivers on whose bars smooth water is continually to be found, gives to the settlement a facility of communication between the several districts which I should think unequalled. The cays, which from their position are of so much benefit, have likewise their intrinsic value. On them are grown the greater number of the thousands of cocoa nuts annually exported. They form also places of sanitary refuge during the hot damp months. Being in general composed merely of sand and coral, without mould, they support no vegetation but the cocoa-nut tree, whose boughs meet over the small houses and produce a permanent shelter from the sun. As the cocoa-nut palm dries up in dying, no vegetable decay taints the air which blows as pure as over a ship at sea. The favourite cays are provided with wells of fresh water. Abundance of fish is to be caught on the reef to windward; and conchs, turtle, and lobsters on the sandy shoal under the lee.

In the interior of the continental portion of the settlement the communication is principally kept up by means of the rivers. Beginning in the north; there is, first, the deep and sluggish Hondo, which, with its three branches, carries navigation beyond our limits. The Hondo is interesting, as being the boundary between this territory and Mexico, or, more correctly, between us and the revived Maya Republic, which is now supreme in southern Yucatan. The one side presents a scene of total ruin and devastation. Not a house standing, not a Spaniard left alive. The other is still happily enlivened by the industry of the English woodcutters. Ten miles from the Hondo is the mouth of the New River; a stream hideous in its lower parts, where the boatman paddles for miles, or trims the sails of his schooner, through dense forests of mangrove, in which he cannot find a solid spot of ground whereon to set his foot. Alligators revel in the mud, and miasmata fill the air. This, however, is the river upon which the greatest number of large crafts is seen, for after ascending some fifteen or twenty miles the banks become firm, then gradually rise, and pretty Spanish villages—San Estevan, Santa Cruz, and Orange Walk, appear. Higher up, again, an immense lake is found, with streams of fresh water pouring in on all sides and bearing down to this central basin the logwood to be shipped in the "bungay" (Spanish schooner) and the mahogany to be formed into rafts.

Proceeding southward, the Freshwater and Northern Rivers are passed; each with its numerous lagoons tapping a vast extent of country. Then comes the main outlet of the magnificent Belize River, about three miles from the smaller branch upon which this town is built. Five miles from Belize is the Sibun. The scenery here changes. The sea has approached nearer to the mountains, and in six miles from the river's mouth the alligators and mangrove are left behind. Then for two days' journey up stream the whole aspect of things is pleasing and cheerful. Human habitations are never lost sight of. Oranges, shaddocks, forbidden fruit, and mangoes grow in such abundance as to have, under a barrel full, no money value. Luxuriant patches of sugar cane or rice, surrounded by groves of plantains and bananas, occupy the remainder of the clearings.

Proceeding higher up the houses and fruit trees are missed; but it is the number of the population which is exhausted, not the resources of the land.

The Manatte is but a short distance from the Sibun; then follow in rapid succession Mullin's River, Upper and Lower Staun Creek, the Sittee, Monkey River, Deep River, Middle River, Rio Grande, Golden Stream, the Moho, Tomash, and Sarstoon. I can vouch for the beauty of such of these southern rivers as I have visited, and, when the settlement shall be peopled, the richness of the country they traverse will be appreciated and developed.

Is is easy to count the rivers which throw themselves into the sea, but if a line were to be drawn parallel to the coast at a distance inland of twenty-five miles, it would cross an infinite number of "creeks" or rivulets, navigable for mahogany and boats, which after intersecting the country, lose themselves in lakes or larger rivers.

Accessions to our population, and commercial failures, began in 1858 to direct public attention to the capabilities which Honduras presents for an extended system of tropical agriculture; and, indeed, impatience was occasionally shown with those who still adhere firmly to the old staples, and declare that the prosperity of the settlement can be maintained by logwood and mahogany alone. I am one of those who take the old fashioned view of things. The wood-cutting business has proved a good friend to those who were faithful to it, and still maintains two or three thousand labourers in actual affluence. Where is the sugar-planter who can afford to give his hands from three to five shillings a day and rations? Besides, in a moral point of view I am well disposed towards the cutting trade. The habits of bush life with the self-reliance which it creates, while compelling mutual aid in case of need, and habitual hospitality, have created in British Honduras a development of the negro character which has agreeably surprised me.

But there is no necessary opposition between mahogany cutting and sugar growing. On the contrary, they will be, should the population ever become considerable, close allies. The former can pay the highest wages, so need not dread competition. The woodcutter is already preparing the way for the planter, who, if he comes, will find much of his work done for him, and will best thrive by grafting his operations on those of the mahogany gang. To say that so many trees have been cut in a certain district, and to show the logs in Belize, is to prove that the land from whence they came is admirably adapted for settlement. Large mahogany implies a good soil; the "getting it out" implies great facilities for communication,—level land for the plough, and water carriage even for the bulky sugar hogshead, for these valuable trees are only thinly scattered over the country, and each one requires a road for itself. Thus, even now, from the mahogany village by the river side, as a centre, wide and level roads are cut through the bush in all directions, and we want but people in order to line them with farms and plantations.

Another advantage possessed by Honduras is the regularity of the seasons. There are two dry periods in the year and two wet ones. For a few days in the month of June the rivers swell and overflow their banks, but speedily retire, leaving a general freshness and fertility over the country. True the "top-gallant floods" of October might occasionally prove embarrassing to the planter, but the Sibun sugar canes show that the plant thrives from the immersion. The cultivator of rice is specially benefitted, as nature performs the necessary operation of flooding his fields and then draining them, operations which the planters of Carolina and Georgia have to perform with great labour and expense.

But the successful manufacture of sugar in this settlement is no longer hypothetical. Under an extremely slovenly mode of cultivation the Corosal planter has already obtained possession of the local market. The canes are inserted, any how, into half-cleared ground, and left to crush by their own superior vitality the few and feeble weeds; yet the eleven-year-old ratoons show no symptom of exhaustion. When cut, the canes are ground between wooden rollers, nearly 25 per cent. of the juice being thus lost, and the sugar is boiled in copper or iron pots. Made in this inartistic manner, the leakage is considerable on long voyages; yet the free-grown sugar of Honduras can undersell in New Orleans the produce of local slave labour. It will be the best proof of the luxuriance of the soil if I mention that, with wages varying from a shilling to fifteen pence a day and rations, the planter will be no loser if he sells his sugar in Corosal at 8*s.* the hundred pounds; in Belize, 90 miles off, with the excise duty of 2*s.* paid, at 12*s.* The nature of the climate greatly facilitates the production of sugar, as it allows the cane to ripen at any time of the year, and thus enables the planter to distribute the labours of the harvest over the twelve months, and make the most of the labour at his disposal.

The population of British Honduras may be divided into four classes:—1st, the Maya and Chichanja Indians (Aztecs); 2d, Spanish refugees from the neighbouring

HONDURAS. republics, who already form the numerical majority; 3d, white and black Creoles, Africans, and all who speak the English language; 4th, Caribs.

The aborigines deserve the priority of notice. The descendants of the men who built the temples, the ruins of which are here called "Indian Churches," and the huge mounds of limestone and coral, that form islands of refuge high above the top-gallant floods. In the more civilized districts they are much mixed up with persons of other races, either as patient and silent domestic servants, or as useful members of the mahogany gang. More robust than the Spaniard, less addicted to pleasure than the negro, they are admirably adapted to the monotonous drudgery of logwood cutting, which has principally passed into their hands. There are, however, other tribes of Indians within our borders who come in contact with civilization but once a year. They cultivate maize somewhere in the depths of the forest, and fatten pigs, whose surplus produce they annually bring to some village market, procure what they require, principally salt and annis, and disappear again. We know but little of these people. They have learnt to respect the mahogany tree in their clearing operations, so there is peace between them and our woodsmen. When fallen in with accidentally these men are found in the usual Indian working dress—a hat and a towel—and are in manners civil, but shy. The southern portions of our territory have never been explored, and, according to the Crown Surveyor, they contain inhabitants who, he believes, have not yet been seen by European or Creole. The rivers south of the Sibun have their source in the mountains, whose line of water-shed forms the division between ourselves and Vera Paz. Adown these streams, at least down Mullin's River, Mr. Faber has occasionally seen floating rough wooden bowls and other implements, which testify to the existence of some inhabitants utterly unknown to us.

The principal station of the Spanish immigrants is Corosal. They, with a sprinling of Indians, are our sugar growers. The town already contains a population of 4,500, and covers a large extent of ground. The wide streets intersect each other at right angles; and the little houses that border them, generally consisting of one room, are kept scrupulously clean. The doors are open by day, and the two main articles visible in all, are the family hammock and altar. Occasionally, there are also tables and rocking chairs, and a sideboard; less frequently a bed with mosquito-net, but the images and hammocks are of rigid necessity. It is not, however, entirely from devotion that the former are tricked out so gaily. A small traffic is made in religion, and the fine clothes on the Virgin are part of the speculation. Country people arriving in town, conscious of sins and helplessness, staring in at the houses, and seeing remission and protection in satin and spangles, straightway purchase from the master of the house a few rials' worth of candles, which they light on his own altar, and pass on comforted.

Corosal possesses no building of architectural pretension. In the vast *plaza* is a great cruciform incision, from which a church will rise when the present schism in our Roman Catholic community is healed. But when that will be it is hard to say. My own well meant efforts only widened the breach they sought to close. Discord, the people of Yucatan love for itself; and it is a matter of satisfaction to them, since our tolerably vigorous laws will not allow of much secular insubordination, to carry spiritual rebellion to its utmost extent. The priest who now possesses the most authority over them has been excommunicated, and warned not to trespass on a field given over to another's pastoral charge; but with drunken audacity he perseveres, and the flock follows in his eccentric movements, which have a constant tendency towards increasing depravity. Occasionally injured husbands or brothers, in the Spanish belief of the omnipotence of my office, lay before me tales of his daring and whimsical profligacy, but his influence continues unabated. Heresy, discontent, an inability to do good oneself, or allow others to do it, are, however, simply *cosas de Yucatan*.

In a corner of the great square which is some day to have a church, stands the building at present used as a substitute. It is a barn; gaudy enough within, but not sufficiently solid to support its bells, which depend from a gallows hard by. As much ceremony as can be managed under the circumstances attends the celebration of mass. The elevation of the host is accompanied by the ascent of sky rockets. Other parts of the service are marked by the fizz and bang of squibs, and the more solemn and reverberated explosions of *bombas*. Divine service is followed by cock-fighting or card-playing, with doors closed against the police, and the night opens with a ball. On week days also amusements always take precedence of work; gambling, a cock-fight, or more rarely, a bull-fight, are the occupations of the day; guitarring, dancing, and waking their dead, those of the night. Yet all seem doing well,—labourers and employers of labour in their respective spheres, whose boundary, however, is not very well defined in Corosal. Large sums of money, or a cane field, are lost at cards; and the expense of their entertainments is very

considerable. Olives and sugar plums being the only refreshment of a solid description provided in a well regulated *fiesta*. The consumption of champagne and pale ale becomes large. The other Spanish villages are much like Corosal; in the morning, melancholy noiseless places, brightened up at night by music and gay dresses.

In violent contrast to the Spanish village, whose inhabitant in his utmost rage will not raise his voice to an unseemly pitch, is the mahogany "bank," when worked principally by blacks. Long before it is reached the exuberant and aggressive self-satisfaction of the negroes is heard filling the woods with shouts, laughter, and loud talk. The bank, as its name implies, is on the river side. It is the nucleus of the work which is carried on for miles around. Here resides the captain of the gang; here the stores are kept, and the huge logs of mahogany deposited, until the fit season arrives to throw them into the water. The business of the day is simple enough. A "hunter" has found a tree, and a couple of men are sent to cut it down. This tree-felling is the very hardest work I have seen performed in the West Indies. It would be difficult for a person, who merely saw the mahogany log as exported, to conceive the size and beauty of the tree. The "spurs," or supporting buttresses, spring from the trunk some 15 to 30 feet from the ground. It would be endless work cutting through these, so the woodsmen commence operations above. A very light platform, called a "barbecue," is formed of three long flexible sticks, lashed into a triangle enclosing the tree, and supported at the angles by posts of the requisite length driven into the ground. The man who chops to windward, from whom the tree will fall, has the hardest work. Standing in the centre of the base of the triangle, 15 feet or more from the ground, he swings his "tuba axe" with the five feet handle, and the extreme elasticity of the barbecue, which springs under him like a tight rope, seems to throw the whole weight of the man into the axe head as it enters the tree. I have never seen elsewhere such scientific and skilful tree-felling. The largest tree is generally brought down before sunset. The next thing to be done is to saw off all above the lowest branch, to square the log roughly; then a road must be made from the main trucking path to the spot in the forest where the log lies. When the trucks are brought up, the mass of wood, which sometimes weighs as much as four tons, is, with no appliances but tackles and levers, lifted up dexterously and placed on them. The "trucking" is one of the sights which the inhabitants like to show a stranger. No cattle could perform it in the heat of the day, so the work is carried on at night. A "set" of oxen, six pair, sometimes more, is attached to each truck. Men bearing pine torches precede and accompany each log, and it forms rather a striking scene as the several noisy and brilliant processions, conveying from the denser parts of the forest, meet on the common high road to the bank, along which the teams, when united, sometimes stretch for half a mile.

The creoles are very skilful boatmen, but hardly so much so as our Caribs, one half of whose life is spent in or on the water. From their earliest infancy the children are taught to swim, sail a "dorey," and use the paddle. I have seen at Staun Creek a woman coming down to the river with a mahogany bowl, full of clothes to be washed, on her head, and a mere baby on her hip. Having thrown the linen on the bank, she places the child in the bowl, and then pushes it from the shore into the stream; and in this manner the young Caribs, before they can speak distinctly, are often taught one of the rudiments of "dorey" sailing, the sitting steady. It is curious to watch the fixed and earnest countenances of the Carib babies in their washing bowls which soon float rapidly down towards the sand bar at the mouth of the stream. The least loss of balance upsets the small embarcation, and the infant has to strike out for its life. But this is in no danger. The whole juvenile population is on or in the river and neighbouring sea, fishing, swimming, paddling, or else sailing and capsizing in small doreys.

These Caribs form a very useful portion of our population; and on any of the various expeditions to which our smooth sea, studded with innumerable islets, invites, they are by far the best attendants. Preferring the water to the land, no amount of wetting from spray or rain seems to hurt them. Indeed, their spirits rise with the wind, and the greatest damper to their vivacity is a calm.

The Caribs speak their own language, with which, however, they have incorporated many French and Spanish words. They congregate in villages apart, and seldom, if ever, intermarry with the negroes. Each man on his marriage builds a house, clears and plants about an acre of land for his wife, and, having thus provided for her, returns to his occupations on the water.

I must again apologise for the length of this communication. Much, however, of its contents had not been told before, and need not be so again. To bring my despatch even within its present compass, I have had to omit all account of the political events which passed around us in 1858, and which will cause that year to be well remembered

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in Belize. The earlier months saw the revival on our frontier, after upwards of three centuries of apparent extinction, of an Aztec power, which seems likely to last. It arose little changed; there is the language of the days of Cortes, and the old belief in the divine thirst for human blood. Ties of the nearest kind united the Mexicans, who still struggled in their own country against the Indians, to those who had sought a timely refuge in this territory. A thrill of horror, therefore, ran through our northern districts when it was learnt that all the inhabitants, whom the first rage of the successful assailants had spared in the captured town of Bacalar, were solemnly sacrificed to an idol in the moonlighted massacre of the 1st of March.

This was in the north. On the south we have had to deal with the usual complications of the Central American question; and, in December, even the sea in front contributed its share to the political work, when it saved the republic of Honduras by throwing on our hands the filibusters who sailed from Mobile in the "Susan."

Though no very great value is probably attached to this settlement, its occupation by us has been of incalculable benefit to the neighbouring republics, and, indeed, to humanity. Under the shelter of our protection twelve or fifteen thousand Yucatecans now flourish in sight of their ruined native land; and the tide of Indian rebellion and devastation in its progress to the southward was checked by the strong English force on the Hondo, and prevented from filling the channels already dug for it in Guatemala and other states.

I have, &c.,

To Governor Darling, &c. &c.

(Signed) FREDERICK SEYMOUR, Superintendent.

BAHAMAS.

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No. 3.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor BAYLEY to the Right Honourable Sir E. B. LYTTON, Bart.

(No. 62.)

Government House, Nassau, N.P., Bahamas, July 16, 1859.

(Received August 22, 1859.)

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the usual Blue Book Returns of this Colony for the year 1858.

2. There is nothing in them which necessitates any modification of the opinions contained in my Report for 1857. The returns exhibit a decrease in the values both of exports and imports, as compared with those of 1857; of the former to the amount of 48,000*l.*; of the latter, to the amount of nearly 21,000*l.* This difference is explained by the falling off in the value of the property wrecked and salved here, which, according to the Blue Book Returns, was reduced from 87,573*l.* in 1857 to 64,509*l.* in 1858. But, inasmuch as the exports of two of our staple articles, fruit and sponge, have risen from 32,100*l.* in 1857 to 39,200*l.* in 1858, and those of salt and shells have not been so far reduced as to explain the difference between the aggregate returns of the two years, I believe that the diminution of exports may be accounted for by supposing that there was even a greater decrease in the number of "wrecks" in 1858 than would appear from the returns under that head; and that many articles which figure as "exports" simply were originally wrecked here, and afterwards exported on speculation. The title of "exports" is always deceptive when applied to this Colony, for it generally includes a larger proportion of wrecked goods re-exported than of produce raised here. Ignorance of this fact has led a writer, in the last April number of the Edinburgh Review, when treating of the West India Colonies, to assert, at least by implication, that some four or five years back the native produce of the Bahamas exported to foreign parts had reached the value of 300,000*l.*; a value which it is not likely to attain in the next half century.

3. However, I am glad to remark that, such as it is, this diminution has not affected our Revenue, which in 1858 netted 31,353*l.*, while in 1857 it did not exceed 30,592*l.*

4. The condition of the people is such as I have described it in previous reports. They have neither great wealth nor many wants. A slight exertion can always procure a competence. Climate and other things considered, they live, altogether, an

easier life than the mass of their fellow subjects in England. They know no stimulus of competition, and recognize no need of manual or mechanical excellence. They are aware that such work as they choose to perform will always command the price at which they appraise it; and that the labour of a few weeks can always earn a commensurate period of repose. They are not uninstructed or uninformed. I have found negro Creoles whose bookish acquirements might put to shame those of the mechanics and day labourers of London or Liverpool. It is true that, like others in their condition, they have read more than they remember, and remember more than they reflect, and are very vain of the learning which they have acquired. Nor is it a source of satisfaction that the 2,000 children educated in the Government schools, and the 1,100 children educated in the schools belonging to the Church of England, should not with their instruction imbibe a greater respect for the dignity of honest labour of every kind. But the economical conditions of the Colony explain a state of things, which, if disagreeable, is not unnatural. So long as every man and boy in the place can earn a living from the pursuits of fishing, wrecking, shelling, sponging, or fruit-growing, it is not wonderful that they depreciate the status of domestic service, and do not care much for the approbation of the employer who hires them to do household work, or the contractor who pays high wages for out-door labour. The independence of their means communicates a peculiar tone to their language and demeanor. People who are tolerably familiar with the working classes of England would be surprised at the manner and phraseology of men who were regarded as mere chattels only a quarter of a century ago. Their "uppishness," as it is called, produces an irritation in the minds of the white population, who cannot but contrast the different treatment and behaviour of the negroes in the United States. It certainly must be at times provoking to those who were once the owners of slaves to hear the free blacks denounce and repudiate the terms "master" and "servant," even as applied to such reciprocal relations as are thus denominated by the common law and custom of England. I can imagine no remedy for this but an immigration of foreign labourers; and this remedy is viewed with dislike by a large proportion of the inhabitants, as an experiment which is dangerous in proportion to its novelty.

LEGISLATION.

5. I now proceed to notice the various legislative acts which were passed during the session of 1858.

6. This session was characterized by more numerous and more important measures than had been introduced during the two or three preceding years. The most important of these was the Wrecking Act, 21 Vict. cap. 1. I have already enlarged sufficiently on the provisions of this Bill, in the various Despatches which preceded and followed its enactment. I will content myself, therefore, with expressing a hope that it may be of use in repressing some of the worst kinds of knavery which have disgraced the "wrecking" annals of the Colony. But it would be disingenuous on my part were I to intimate my conviction that this or any other legislative measure will by itself completely eradicate evils of such magnitude. So long as American shipmasters (who are generally also part owners) think they have a right to lose, wreck, or scuttle the vessels under their command; so long as our wreckers see no guilt in helping the masters to carry their designs into execution; and so long as the moral sense of our community is not wounded, while its interests are somewhat prompted by these transactions; and so long as there is no other obstruction but Colonial statutes, or the indignation of a righteous few;—so long will intentional and deliberate wrecks occur in these seas. If the Imperial Government be resolved to suppress them, for its own credit and satisfaction it must use Imperial resources for the purpose. It would be unreasonable, or, if not unreasonable, unavailing, to expect that our Colonists will sacrifice their own interest for the preservation of Imperial honour and the punishment of American fraud, without signal assistance from the metropolitan Government, and without that assistance things will go on as they have gone on in times past. We shall pass stringent laws and impose heavy penalties; but laws and penalties will alike fall harmless and resultless, while foreign shipmasters and native wreckers have a mutual understanding, and are both supported by Colonial jurors. The one effectual and all sufficient cure of delinquencies which have excited the indignation of Her Majesty's Government would be the presence of one or two gun-boats in these waters. Their services would be twofold; they would insure the protection of our remoter cays from Spanish or American trespasses, and the prevention of collusive wrecks.

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7. While I express these sentiments, I beg not to be understood as heaping indiscriminate censure on our wreckers. Bad as their reputation may be, they are not always engaged in acts of fraudulent conspiracy, or the concoction of fictitious shipwrecks. In time of real and urgent distress, amid stormy seas, treacherous shoals, and baffling currents, they render prompt and invaluable aid, at the imminent risk of life and limb. It is when they have the opportunity of tempting or being tempted that they lend themselves to schemes which bring their country and their calling into discredit; and I believe that the strong intervention of Governmental force would release them from the discreditable part of their profession, while it would leave them free to continue their legitimate and beneficial labours for the preservation of property and life.

8. The next act which calls for notice is the Act 21 Vict. cap. 6., which provides for the further continuance of the grants hitherto made for the education of our poorer classes. I regard this as a very important instance of genuine liberality. The idleness, indifference, and extortion imputed to our labouring classes, and, when justly imputed, attributable to the very easy terms on which they were allowed to acquire land, and to other economical causes at which I have already glanced, naturally excited some indignation in the minds of the employing classes. Many of them ascribed this state of things to the education which the lower orders had gratuitously received in the Government schools, and which was supposed to have inspired them with ideas above their station in life. The only cure for the evil was asserted to be the removal of the cause from which it had proceeded, in other words, a deprivation of gratuitous instruction. I could not share these opinions. While I acknowledge that the Government schools had failed to impart that which in its highest and widest sense may properly be styled education, and while I thought that their teaching might have erred in omitting to impress on the pupils with sufficient earnestness the duties of their condition, the dignity of honest labour, and the compatibility of civil freedom with the recognized gradations and orders of civil society, still I could not but see that to deprive the poorer children of all instruction would be a remedy far worse than the disease. If, with the power of reading and writing, with the habit of learning by heart sound moral precepts, and with that partial exercise of the intellectual faculties which must be acquired in any schools moderately well administered; if, with all these advantages, they grew up in many cases (though not without exceptions) indolent, indifferent to the interests of their employers, and rude, if not insubordinate, in their demeanor, what were they likely to become when deprived of all mental and moral cultivation? To expect that, untaught and untrained, they would voluntarily revert to the submissive deportment of slaves, and exhibit the mild docility of newly-captured Africans, was, in my opinion, absurd. They were free, and they knew it. The question was, "Should we have free barbarians or civilized free men "living and multiplying among us?" I could not hesitate as to the alternative. I trusted that the worst evils of which such a society is susceptible might be warded off by our schools; while the others, substantial indeed and irritating enough, might be mitigated by the progress of circumstances and the experience of life. I accordingly addressed to the House of Assembly a message (which will be found in the "Votes" for 1858), pointing out the expediency of renewing and continuing the educational grant after the period at which it would otherwise legally expire. And I am thankful that the good feeling and right judgment of the legislature cordially responded to the advice which I conscientiously offered.

9. Several other acts of local importance were passed during this session, but they do not possess sufficient general interest to provoke any comment from me on this occasion. On the whole, the condition of the Bahamas is not unsatisfactory. The colony is not rich; its soil is not luxuriant; and its people are not very enterprising. But, although neither cotton nor coffee is any longer raised in it, the cultivation of its staple fruits, pine-apples and oranges, is gradually increasing; while (to say nothing of "wrecking" profits) the export of shells, sponges, salt, and turtle combines to produce a sufficient subsistence for the mass of the inhabitants, who, if not very hard-working or generally energetic, show little of that ferocity and savageness in which the physical energy and sterner character of European races at times find vent.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. Sir E. B. Lytton, Bart., &c. &c.

(Signed) C. J. BAYLEY.

TURKS ISLANDS.

TURKS ISLANDS.

No. 4.

COPY of DESPATCH from Governor DARLING to his Grace the Duke of NEWCASTLE.

(No. 27.)

King's House, Jamaica, August 24, 1859.
(Received September 15, 1859.)

MY LORD DUKE,

I HAVE the honour to enclose copy of a Despatch received from the President of Turks Islands, transmitting the Blue Book of that Colony for 1858. No. 27. of 20th July 1859.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. H. DARLING.

His Grace the Duke of Newcastle,
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure 1. in No. 1. Encl. 1. in No. 1.

(Separate, No. 27.)

SIR, Government House, Grand Turk, July 20, 1859.

I HAVE the honour to transmit the Blue Book of this Colony for 1858.

2. The Colonial Secretary, Mr. McIntosh, in forwarding me one copy on the 13th instant, remarks, that its "compilation has been retarded in consequence of the elaborate "and perspicuous manner in which the revenual returns have as usual been made up "at the Receiver-General's office, and further by the preparation of a consolidated "return of the amount contributed from the Crown funds in aid of the general "revenue, which latter return has been drawn up by the Auditor of Public Accounts, "in conformity with the direction of his Excellency the Governor-in-Chief." Presidency of the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Revenue and Expenditure.—Imports and Exports.

3. In a despatch marked financial, No. 9., of 15th February 1859, I have already reported on the revenue of 1858, derived from imports and exports, on which subject I have also entered fully in my Minute to the Legislative Council on the opening of the present session, forming Sub-Enclosure 1. in this Report, to which I beg leave to refer, from the 7th to the 16th paragraph inclusive, as well as to the Receiver-General's comparative statement of the value of and duties paid upon imports into and exports from these islands for the years ending 31st December 1857 and 1858 respectively, together with the number of vessels, amount of tonnage, and number of men inwards and outwards for the same period, forming Sub-Enclosure 2., by which it will be seen that the declared value of imports in 1858 amounted to 41,584*l.* 4*s.* 9*d.*, against 33,418*l.* 2*s.* 10*d.* in 1857, and the total value of exports to 36,260*l.* 14*s.* 6*d.*, against 29,098*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* in 1857.

4. In the abstract of the net revenue and expenditure for 1858 the Colonial Secretary has entered the following item uuder the head of "receipts in aid of revenue," namely, "from Crown funds, in aid of various services, 2,450*l.* 5*s.* 4¾*d.*"

5. On this subject I transmit, as Sub-Enclosure 3., an explanatory table prepared by the Auditor, showing in detail what amounts in the returns of expenditure have been defrayed from the colonial revenue and from Crown funds respectively, and under what heads payments from these several funds have been consolidated. Not printed.

6. This table shows—

	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
I. Ordinary and fixed expenditure - -	6,133 12 2	
Contingent and accidental - - -	828 12 11¾	
		6,962 5 1¾
II. Disbursements on account of miscellaneous civil services -		1,703 11 9¼
III. Military disbursements defrayed from colony - -		98 1 11¾
Total expenditure - - -		8,763 18 10¾

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7. This amount has been defrayed as follows; namely,—

	£	s.	d.
From colonial revenue - - - -	6,313	13	6
From Crown funds:—			
I. Fixed amount - - - -	1,150	10	2¾
II. Miscellaneous, including works and buildings, &c., unconnected with the salt ponds - - - -	1,201	13	2¼
III. Military disbursements - -	98	1	11¾
	2,450	5	4¾
	8,763	18	10¾

8. In the comparative yearly statement of the revenue there appears, therefore, in addition to the customs duties collected in 1858; namely,—

	£	s.	d.
	8,003	17	5
"Receipt in aid from Crown Funds" - - -	2,450	5	4¾
making the total receipts for 1858 - - - -	10,454	2	9¾
while deducting the total colonial expenditure - -	8,763	18	10¾
a balance is shown of - - - - -	1,690	3	11
which, added to one originally derived from 1854 - -	710	19	9¾
shows a balance on general account at the close of 1858 of -	2,401	3	8¾

9. Under the head of local revenue appear the receipts from Crown funds for 1858, amounting to 3,859*l.* 15*s.* 2¼*d.*, while the expenditure for the same year has amounted to 3,952*l.* 10*s.* 11¾*d.*, in excess of receipts by 92*l.* 15*s.* 9½*d.*, which is to be met from arrears of 1857–58, still due, and amounting to 146*l.* 11*s.* 2½*d.*

10. The returns of imports and exports, which yearly cause a delay in the compilation of the Blue Book, might be simplified by amalgamating them under one general head, in place of showing separate returns from each port of the colony respectively. The outports import largely from Grand Turk; the separate returns are, therefore, useless in as far as showing the consumption of imports at each respective port. The Receiver General, Mr. D. T. Smith, whose abilities would grace a higher station than he enjoys here, and whose only fault as a public officer (if such it can be termed) is a desire to make out his returns with extreme perspicuity, has his own views on such matters, and as they are generally correct on points of duty I have not thought proper hitherto to interfere with this arrangement, a change in which would, however, save a vast amount of harassing duties both to himself and the public auditor, and would enable the Blue Book to be transmitted at a much earlier date than the present.

11. The large increase in the value of imports in 1858, showing an advance of 8,166*l.* 1*s.* 11*d.* over those of 1857, and an advance over the exports of 5,324*l.*, has led me to consider how this colony can continue to maintain, as it has done for a series of years, such large imports in comparison with its exports. On this subject I transmit, as Sub-Enclosure 4., a table showing the annual value of imports into this colony from Great Britain, British Colonies, the United States, and other places, together with the annual value of exports, from 1851 to 1858, eight years, both inclusive.

12. By this table it may be seen that during these years this colony has imported, direct from England, goods to the value of 35,742*l.* 18*s.* 10*d.*, for which no exports were returned, and goods to the value of 51,886*l.* 16*s.* 8*d.* from British Colonies; namely, from the Bahamas, Bermuda, Barbadoes, and Nova Scotia, for which exports to the amount only of 29,206*l.* 9*s.* have been returned, leaving the balance of trade as regards these places against this colony to the extent of 58,423*l.* 6*s.* 6*d.* It may also be seen that during the same period goods have been imported from the United States of the value of 131,416*l.* 11*s.* 6*d.*, against exports to the same country amounting to 201,490*l.* 3*s.* 4*d.*, leaving a balance in favour of the colony of 70,073*l.* 11*s.* 10*d.*, and that goods have been imported from other places, namely, St. Thomas and St. Domingo, of the value of 50,512*l.* 12*s.* 10*d.*, against which exports to the amount of 19,326*l.* 12*s.* 8*d.* have only been returned, leaving the balance again against the colony of 31,186*l.* 0*s.* 2*d.*

13. The above statement may be better seen by the following debtor and creditor account; namely,—

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS.

Dr.	£	s.	d.	Cr.	£	s.	d.
To imports for 8 years from Great Britain and British Colonies - - -	87,629	15	6	By exports for 8 years to British Colonies - -	29,206	9	0
To do. do. from United States -	131,416	11	6	By do. do. to United States -	201,490	3	4
To do. do. from other places -	50,512	12	10	By do. do. to other places -	19,326	12	8
				Balance of trade against the Colony - - -	19,535	14	10
£	269,558	19	10	£	269,558	19	10

thus showing the balance of trade against the colony to have amounted during the period above mentioned only to about 2,400*l.* per annum, in consequence of the intervention of one favourable year (1854), in which the value of exports exceeded that of the imports by upwards of 20,000*l.*

14. With reference to the subject of the excess of imports generally over exports in this colony, it may be well to remark, that many proprietors, in place of selling their salt on the spot, send it on freight to the United States, where it is sold, and the proceeds invested in articles of import, by which it would appear that the amount of cost to the colony of a large portion of the goods imported is in fact only the original cost of the cargoes of salt at their place of production, and that the profit on the salt obtained by its sale in the United States is really a profit on the return commerce of the colony, which should, therefore, appear to its credit, in place of being included in the balance of trade against it. The practice of shipping salt on their own account has, in consequence of low prices, prevailed here among the proprietors of ponds to a much greater extent than formerly.

15. However this may be considered, it is certain that the inhabitants of these islands have been enabled to meet this balance (together with the heavy advance paid here by consumers on the original cost of imports) by means of sources of wealth arising from the easy terms on which many of the valuable Crown salinas have been held here for so many years, through which fortunes have been made, which it is not too much to say would have been doubled in more vigorous hands, added to other sources, such as the heavy amounts of salvage not unfrequently obtained here on wrecked property, together with the fact of the expenditure within the colony since 1849 of a comparatively large revenue, the principal part of which was formerly carried to Nassau; thus accounting for so large a consumption of imports among so small a population, and the comparatively small amount of exports, which, however, although they must (as far as salt is concerned) always fluctuate in quantity with wet or dry seasons, as well as in value from various causes, are gradually increasing with increasing cultivation.

16. But if the above-mentioned table is not a fair exponent of the actual condition of the colony, it shows still less what is actually doing. The export of salt has averaged during the last ten years upwards of a million of bushels per annum, during which period only 150 acres of new salina ground have been added to the original cultivation. It is not, therefore, extravagant to assert, that under existing circumstances the next decade (supposing that the East and West Caicos settlements advance, as there is reason to believe will be the case,) will show an average trebly or quadruply in advance of the first; indeed, should the anticipations of Mr. Winter be realised at West Caicos, this may occur even more rapidly, as he confidently expects, when his pond is fully under cultivation, which will probably be the case in a few years, an annual return of at least a million of bushels of salt, which would of itself double the average amount of exports during the first decade.

17. In my Report on the Blue Book for 1857 I mentioned that the salt season of that year had been the most productive on record; that of 1858 has, however, taken precedence of it by an increase of nearly 400,000 bushels. For some time past salt has hardly paid the cost of production, and although this may be attributed in a great degree to the supineness of the present pond proprietors, it is unlikely to be remedied during their tenure of the ponds. The present generation of proprietors may be compared with the race of old fashioned farmers in England, who have become extinct from the same causes which must eventually operate here, namely, low prices and competition with other markets. The prices formerly obtained for salt have been sufficiently remune-

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ratory, even with the clumsy and expensive mode of production in vogue here, and have, together within the absence of competition with the colony, rendered its production heretofore a species of monopoly, which the infusion of new blood and foreign capital must eventually destroy. Unfortunately that infusion can only take effect at present in the East and West Caicos, where, more particularly in the latter settlement, a certain time must elapse before it can add much to the general prosperity of the colony; while the same energy, combined with the introduction of such machinery as is contemplated at West Caicos (where, from many adverse circumstances to be contended against, the enterprise may eventually be unsuccessful), would, if brought to bear on the Turks Islands, result in doubling the products, and lowering the cost of production to such an extent as to render the manufacture of salt profitable, even at present prices.

18. I also mentioned in my Report for 1857 the amount of shipping inwards and outwards from 1849 to 1857, nine years, both inclusive, to have represented respectively 322,691 tons inwards and 314,558 tons outwards.

19. The shipping entered at the different ports of the colony during 1857 amounted to 45,822 tons; that for 1858 amounted to 58,920 tons. The total shipping entered during the first decade of this colony has represented 381,611 tons.

20. In the same Report I gave the nationality of the shipping entered and cleared from 1855 to 1857, three years, both inclusive, which could only be ascertained for that period. I now transmit, as Sub-Enclosure 5, a table compiled from the Blue Books for 1855, 6, 7, and 8, somewhat more in detail, giving the number and tonnage, &c. of vessels of each nation entered and cleared here during these last four years, showing a gradual increase in each year, the total number of vessels entered during that period having been 1,369 of a burthen of 154,642 tons, with crews consisting of 8,502 men. Of these vessels, 838 were British, representing 56,202 tons, and carrying 4,809 men; 470 were American, representing 97,308 tons, and carrying 3,453 men; 58 Haytian and Dominican, representing 816 tons, and carrying 215 men; and 3 Danish, representing 316 tons, and carrying 25 men.

21. The central position of Grand Turk as regards the West Indies is beginning to attract attention in the United States as to a place better qualified for a great commercial depôt in many respects than St. Thomas, whose deadly climate is contrasted with the salubrity of these islands, where fever and other contagious diseases may be said to be unknown, and where the only want is a safe and convenient harbour, the establishment of which would lead to more important results than any increase in the manufacture of salt. On this subject I beg again to be permitted to refer to my before-mentioned Minute to the Legislative Council, paragraph 33., in which I called attention to a proposition (certainly far from being matured) for converting a large sheet of water existing on Grand Turk, called the Northern Creek, into a harbour of refuge.

22. A hasty survey of this place was made in 1849 by Commander de Courcy, R.N., acting under the instructions of the Earl of Dundonald, to whom a report was made; no copy of which, however, was furnished to this Government.

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Ecclesiastical Return.

25. In this return, a remark by the Colonial Secretary, to the effect that " no pro-
" vision is made for a clergyman in the parish of St. George, which is much to be
" lamented," recalls to my memory an endeavour on my part to draw your Excellency's attention to this fact in my Despatch, No. 40, of 17th June 1858, transmitting the Blue Book of this colony for 1857.

26. A reply to this portion of the above-mentioned Report was received here in November 1858, in your Excellency's Despatch, No. 94., of 7th October 1858, covering copy of the Secretary of State's Despatch, " Turk's Islands, No. 11., of 2d September 1858," and copy of a letter from Mr. Mesac Thomas, the secretary of the Colonial Church and School Society, of 25th August 1858, to whom the matter had been referred, addressed to the Under Secretary of State for the Colonies, in which Mr. Thomas states, that when the committee re-assemble in October the documents transmitted by direction of the Secretary of State should receive their earliest attention, and the result of their deliberation be reported to the Secretary of State without delay. No further communication having been received here relating to this subject, I might not have thought proper to have renewed it, but for this remark in the Blue Book by the Colonial Secretary, from whom, being himself a native of the Caicos, it comes with peculiar fitness. Mr. M'Intosh, who received his education at Harrow and Cambridge, and is a member of the Inner Temple, and who may therefore by implication be considered, what in fact

he is, namely, a gentleman of education and refinement, probably views with affectionate and regretful remembrance the sad condition of the land of his birth and boyhood, once a garden, now a wilderness, overrun by people little removed from savages, who, if subject to any so-called spiritual guidance, are under one which to my mind fully embodies the idea of the blind leading the blind. TURKS ISLANDS.

Education.

27. I transmit with reference to this subject a report from Mr. Ockenden, Inspector and Head Master of Public Schools in this colony, forming Sub-Enclosure 6. in this Report, and beg once more to refer to my Minute to Council, in which I have entered fully into the condition of public education within these islands during 1858.

28. The short time the Blue Book for 1858 has been in my possession must plead my excuse for so short a Report, and the omission of many subjects of interest in connexion with this colony.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) W. R. INGLIS, President.

His Excellency C. H. Darling,
&c. &c. &c.

Sub-Enclosure 1. Sub.-Encl. 1.

MINUTE of President INGLIS, addressed to the Council of Government of the Turks and Caicos Islands, at the opening of the first Session of the third Legislative Council of the Colony.

Council Chamber, Grand Turk,
June 30, 1859.

GENTLEMEN,

1. ON opening the first session of the third Legislative Council since the formation of this colony into a separate Government, it is pleasing to be able to congratulate you on the prosperous condition of the revenue at the close of 1858, which showed a larger return from customs duties paid into the Colonial Treasury than that of any year since the abolition of the old high tariff in 1849, under which the inhabitants of this colony suffered for so long a period, when, in the words of the memorialists praying for a separate Government, they declared that "the taxes had extended to such a degree that "the petitioners verily believe them equal to the amount of exports, leaving them no support." The surprising contrast to such a melancholy state of affairs I pointed out when I had the honour to address the last council on the opening of the session of 1857, when I drew its attention to the vast increase of exports and imports, together with other symptoms of successful progress since the separation.

2. I am constrained to own, however, that something bitter arises in the midst of this financial prosperity, consequent on the long-continued depressed condition of the only staple of the colony, the price obtained for the same having been now for upwards of two years even lower than that of 1852, during which year the price of salt averaged here about 4¾*d.* per bushel, speedily followed, however, in the years 1853, 54, 55, and 56, by 6¾*d.*, 1*s.*, 1*s.* 2*d.*, and 8*d.* sterling, which were respectively about the average prices obtained during these years, while those during 1857 and 1858 have been, respectively, about 4¾*d.* and 3¾*d.* per bushel, the price having now fallen to about the cost of production, without any immediate prospect of improvement.

3. By a table which I shall lay before you, it will, however, be found, that, taking the average rates obtained for salt annually from 1849 to 1858, ten years, both years inclusive, the price has averaged during that period about 6¼*d.* per bushel, while the average for 1857–58 has amounted only to 4¼*d.*

4. This table showing the quantity of salt exported from these islands during each of the above-mentioned periods, the declared value of the same, and the average rate or price per bushel (computed to minute fractional parts of a farthing), has been carefully prepared by Mr. Alexander C. Lowe, and is founded on the declared value of salt, as given in by exporters at the office of the Receiver General, the total quantity exported during that period having amounted to 10,434,182 bushels, of the declared value of 276,448*l.* 12*s.* 5*d.*, or a fractional part over 6¼*d.* per bushel.

5. A depression in industrial products is, I need hardly remind you, not unknown in other colonies, and although the pond proprietors have reason for their present despondency, they have not, I think, just cause to believe, that although it may be long before the high prices obtained in 1854–55 may occur again, an article of such univeral consumption as salt, more particularly that of Turks Islands, recognized as superior to that produced in any other part of the world, can always remain at unremuneratory prices. It appears also reasonable to suppose, that if salt could be procured in these islands at all periods of the year at a fair price, which is likely to be the case as its cultivation increases, it would not be subject to those fluctuations hitherto experienced, the high prices obtained in the years before mentioned having, it is said, caused other channels for the supply of salt to the American market to be enlarged, which, to be diverted again in favour of this colony, may possibly be a work of time.

6. As one proof among many that could be adduced, not only of the superiority of the salt produced here, but the distant parts of the world to which it reaches, it may not be uninteresting to mention, that in the annual report on foreign commerce for 1857, published by the authority of the United States Government, it is stated (I am informed by competent authority), that in the Sandwich Islands, where salt is made, as it is here, from solar evaporation, the meats prepared there for export,

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are generally preserved with Turks Islands' salt, that made on the spot being rarely used for packing meat for long voyages.

7. It cannot, however, fail to be gratifying to those who take an interest in the political welfare of the colony, to observe that there is a sufficient amount of vitality within it to have sustained for so long a period this depressed condition of its industrial product, and to have shown a revenual result so favourable as that set forth in the Receiver-General and Treasurer's comparative statement of the value of and duties paid upon imports into and exports from the Turks and Caicos Islands, for the years ending 31st December 1857 and 1858 respectively, together with the number of vessels, amount of tonnage, and number of men, inwards and outwards, for the same period. By this interesting document, which I shall have the satisfaction to lay before you, and which will be published for general information, it will be found that the declared value of imports in 1858 amounted to 41,584*l.* 4*s.* 9*d.*, against that of 33,418*l.* 2*s.* 10*d.* in 1857.

8. The great increase in imports during 1858, over those of the previous year, would, if continued to be maintained, prove, contrary to my hitherto expressed anticipations, that the existing tariff is even more than sufficient to meet the necessary expenditure, though there is no reason at present to look on the financial prosperity of 1858 as other than exceptional; while at the same it may be borne in mind, that the new establishment of West Caicos bids fair to be a means of aiding the revenue in future, not only temporarily by increased imports, as it has done already, but I trust permanently, both by increased imports and exports. The total value of exports (inclusive of imports re-exported) during 1858 appears by the above-mentioned return to have amounted to 36,260*l.* 14*s.* 6*d.*, against 29,098*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* in 1857.

9. The total value of salt exported in 1858 has amounted to 30,375*l.* 17*s.* 10*d.*, against 25,252*l.* 19*s.* 7*d.* in 1857, upwards of two millions of bushels having been collected within these islands during 1858, being the largest crop on record, of which 1,823,324 bushels had been exported up to the close of the year.

10. A comparison between the value of the export in 1854, of 1,021,900 bushels, and that of 1858, consisting of an increase of nearly four-fifths in quantity, will show to what an extent the article has depreciated, the declared value of the former on the spot having amounted to 51,375*l.* 16*s.* 3*d.*, while, as stated above, that of 1858, notwithstanding this immense increase, has amounted only to the comparatively small sum of 30,375*l.* 17*s.* 10*d.*

11. The probable revenue expected to be derived from customs duties for 1858 was estimated at 6,045*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*, the actual revenue therefrom has amounted to 8,003*l.* 17*s.* 5*d.*, thus exceeding anticipations by 1,958*l.* 4*s.* 1*d.*

12. The probable expenditure for 1858 was estimated at 5,954*l.* 8*s.* 9*d.*, the actual expenditure has amounted to 6,313*l.* 13*s.* 6*d.*, showing an access of 359*l.* 4*s.* 9*d.*, but leaving a balance in favour of the year amounting to 1,690*l.* 3*s.* 11*d.*, which, added to a surplus originally derived from 1854, left a balance on general account in the colonial treasury of 2,401*l.* 3*s.* 8¾*d.*, available for the services of the present year.

13. The Receiver-General has drawn my attention, in a financial report, to the fact that the revenue derived from imports in 1858 exceeded that of the best year (1854) under the reduced tariff, and fell short only by 168*l.* 4*s.* 9*d.* of the first year of this government (1849) when under the old tariffs. The total colonial revenue arising from imports and exports amounted in 1849 to 8,441*l.* 3*s.* 2*d.*, while that of 1858 having amounted, as I have before stated, to 8,003*l.* 17*s.* 5*d.*, it follows that the total revenue of last year falls short only by 437*l.* 5*s.* 9*d.* of that of 1849, the last of the high tariff years.

14. The increase in imports in 1858 has, however, been too sudden to permit me to felicitate you as yet on the success of the great reduction of the tariff in 1849, a considerable deficiency in imports having occurred in 1857, the duties on imported goods having in that year shown a diminution of 429*l.*, under those of 1856, while the annual expenditure has in the years 1855, 6, 7 exceeded the annual revenue.

15. The principal increase in articles of import during the past year has been in wheat flour, salted meats, ardent spirits, sugar, wine, and dry goods. The duties on spirits amounted in 1858 to 1,385*l.* 8*s.*, against 1,119*l.* 13*s.* 3*d.* in 1857; and on dry goods to 1031*l.* 5*s.* 4*d.*, against 678*l.* 2*s.* 2*d.* in 1857. The farthing export on salt, which was the means of saving the revenue of 1857 from being much under the average, shows a striking increase in 1858, the export of 1,823,324 bushels of salt giving a return, at one farthing a bushel, of 1,899*l.* 5*s.* 11*d.*, being in excess of the export duties of 1857 by 577*l.* 2*s.* 1*d*,

16. The Receiver-General also draws my attention to the light duty of 3*d.* per ton, which Mr. Smith remarks in the same report has given a revenue of 736*l.* during 1858, which duty, he further remarks, levied on the inward tonnage, corresponds with 58,920 tons of shipping entered in 1858 at the different ports of the colony, leaving for that year, during which Mr. Smith remarks that the lighthouse expenses were unusually heavy, a net income to the colony of 321*l.* 15*s.* 6*d.* When the original outlay defrayed by the colony towards its erection is considered, the sound policy of such an undertaking must be apparent, whether considered in the narrow view of a mere commercial speculation, or in the more extended one of the increased commercial prosperity of the colony consequent on its possessing such a safeguard to mariners visiting these islands.

17. The Receiver-General also remarks in his report that the public debt remains the same as at the close of 1853, viz., 1,838*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*, being the balance of the amount (8,000*l.*) awarded to this colony as its proportion of the Bahama public debt on being separated from that government.

18. In my address on the opening of last session I stated, while commenting on certain deficiencies in the revenue of 1857, and the necessity of an increased expenditure for 1859, that I had, with the advice of the Executive Council, caused an amount to be placed in the ways and means for 1859, which I proposed should be contributed annually from Her Majesty's Crown funds of the colony for a term of three or five years, in aid of the colonial revenue, by which time certain contingencies were likely to occur rendering a continuance of this aid unnecessary, and further, that if this course received the sanction of Her Majesty's Government it would be a means, not only of meeting the exigencies of

this Government, but in the event of a favourable financial year, such as we had experienced in 1854 (and which we have again experienced in 1858), would enable the colony to devote any surplus balance that might accrue from it towards the extinction of the public debt. I further added, that former experience had demonstrated the necessity of reserving any surplus balance which might remain from a fortunate year to meet the short comings of less fortunate ones, and that in the absence of the aid I had adverted to it would be unwise to abandon that policy.

19. On this subject, and in connexion with the above proposition, I am in receipt of a despatch from the Governor-in-Chief, covering one from the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies, which sanctions such proposed aid for this year, but only if absolutely required, and further instructs me, that if at any time the general revenue should fall short of the expenditure means must be devised for meeting that expenditure without having recourse to Crown funds. Under such circumstances I cannot recommend that any portion of the public debt be paid off at present.

20. In consequence of the low prices obtained for salt for so long a period, and from the fact of some of the ponds being in the hands of non-capitalists, there has been great delay in the payment of the Crown rents, extending, in some instances, to those of 1858. This shows, I think, the impolicy of offering inducements to the non-capitalist to become a proprietor; a course which, leading, as it most probably must eventually do, to the forfeit of his ponds, is neither wise in regard to the community, nor kind towards the individual; it is indeed a false philanthrophy, which, if carried out to the fullest extent, must lead to the inevitable ruin of the colony. "Experience has shown," says a gentleman of the neighbouring community, well known for the enlightened interest he takes in the public affairs of the colony, "that no efficient cultivation of new salinas can be carried on without energy, intelligence, " and capital;" and although the old salinas of these islands were received into the hands of the present proprietors ready cultivated, even these cannot be successfully worked by persons devoid of sufficient capital, not only to maintain them in a condition favourable for the production of salt, but to collect the salt when made. It should be remembered, also, that without the existence of persons able and willing to continue the manufacture of salt, under such adverse circumstances as have now existed here for nearly three years, there would have been little or no demand for labour in these islands, and the labourer must have been reduced to starvation, or have sought employment in other markets.

21. The encouragement of an introduction of more mechanical contrivances to take the place of manual labour when salt must be produced at the lowest possible cost (and the demand for labour increases, in consequence of increased cultivation,) seems to me to be worthy of legislative consideration. With reference to such mechanical contrivances, more particularly for a cheaper and more rapid mode of raking salt, which I have reason to believe would be introduced here could the inventor secure an exclusive right to his invention by taking out a patent in England, I am in receipt of a circular despatch annexing copy of a letter addressed to the Secretary of State from Mr. Horatio J. Huggins, of 17 King Street, St. James's, London, suggesting the expediency of extending to the colonies the exclusive rights which are secured to inventors, by patents granted in England. This letter will be laid before you on the proposal contained, in which you are invited to express your views, which, in the absence of any patent law in this colony, will probably be favourable to those of Mr. Huggins. In any event I shall be happy to be favoured with them, in order to enable me to transmit your views on the subject to the Secretary of State.

22. I have to draw your earnest attention to the urgent necessity of a compilation being made of the laws of the colony, and to point out the serious evils arising from an ignorance of them, extending even to the magistrates, who thereby render themselves liable, while endeavouring to administer the laws to the best of their ability, to be mulcted in pecuniary damages, but which ignorance must be considered, at present, in many instances, perfectly justifiable, when it is taken into consideration that many of these laws have never been published here, and that some which have been published are out of print. I am informed by Judge Duncombe, that the written laws of these islands consist of:—first, statutes extended; second, Bahamas laws extended; third, orders in council; and, fourth, ordinances of the local legislature. A compilation, to include the laws under the three last-named heads, would, I am also informed by the Judge, require a volume of the size of volume i. of the Bahama laws, edition of 1850, and a complete index would require one about one half, or if in small type one third of that size. The Judge is further of opinion, that in addition to the three last enumerated classes of laws it would be well to include in the compilation a few of the most important British statutes extended here.

23. A requisition from Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies for a supply of the ordinances of this legislature could not be complied with, in consequence of the very limited number of copies which had been originally printed, as well as from the before-mentioned fact, that several were actually out of print. My attention was called to the "serious embarrassment which is " constantly arising from the want of a proper supply of colonial acts and ordinances;" that the supply required by the colonial regulations (which I regret to find has not been hitherto furnished by this government) "is too small, and no longer adapted to the increasing exigencies of the public service, and " that for the purposes of reference to other departments of the Government, and of consultation with " the law officers of the Crown, as well as of satisfiying the inquiries of individual applicants, a larger " number of these acts is urgently required."

24. In my despatch to his Excellency the Governor-in-Chief, explanatory of the reasons for being unable to comply with the instructions of the Secretary of State on this subject, I stated, that I proposed laying before the present council the necessity of providing means for the compilation of all the laws of this colony up to the close of the session of 1858, which completed its second quinquennial legislature, which desirable object, I further stated, ought to be accomplished during the present year, and would thus enable me to transmit the required number of copies to the various public departments mentioned in the Secretary of State's above quoted despatch, while all subsequent ordinances might be forwarded annually.

25. Towards the accomplishment of this object I have caused an amount to be placed in the estimates which I trust will meet with your approval, feeling confident that you will coincide in my opinion, that nothing can be more essential, either for the magistrates or the public generally, than a knowledge of the laws by which they are governed, or even the power of being able to refer to them on

TURKS ISLANDS.

special occasions. With this view it will be necessary to pass a short ordinance authorizing their compilation, and directing the compiler to expunge such formal portions of the Bahama acts extended here as are not applicable this colony, as well as to make the necessary changes in some of them with regard to the names of towns and districts. Volume i. of the laws of the Island of Dominica, lately published there, will be laid on the table, for the inspection of honourable members, as a specimen of colonial printing. From the superior manner in which such of the ordinances of this colony as have been published here are printed, there can be no doubt of the ability of the printers of Grand Turk to publish such a compilation of the laws as would do credit to the colony, should such course be consistent with economy.

26. The only ordinances of importance passed in 1858 were Nos. 1. and 3., the first for regulating the registration of persons entitled to vote at the election of members to serve in this council, and otherwise amending the election laws of the colony, and the latter to re-apportion the elective members of council, by which the Caicos Islands lost and the Turks Islands gained one member, both of which ordinances have received the Royal assent.

27. I have been instructed to consult you as to the expediency of introducing by ordinance into this colony a measure which shall incorporate as nearly as its circumstances will admit the provisions of an Act recently passed in England "to amend the law relating to divorce and matrimonal causes in "England," a copy of which will be laid before you.

28. My attention has also been called to the rules of council, which are stated to contain several provisions which ought to have been made, if at all, by way of ordinance, and not by way of standing rule, such rules being only authorized to be made for the purpose of ensuring punctuality of attendance, of preventing the holding of meetings without notice, and of obtaining order and method. The 10th, 11th, and 17th rules, therefore, which assume to confer certain privileges on the persons and property of members of council, are stated to be simply invalid, and consequently should be repealed, there being, however, no objection to their re-enactment by way of ordinance, if the council shall think it advisable. The 28th rule, for maintaining order, &c., I am also instructed to inform you Her Majesty has been pleased, for the same reason, to disallow, which, however, with some slight modification, may be re-enacted by way of ordinance. The Secretary of State would, however, much regret the passing of on ordinance of this kind, for he is reluctant to believe, what such an enactment would tacitly admit, that in the legislature of a British colony the good sense and feeling of its members are insufficient to secure obedience to the presiding authority. While concurring in these sentiments, it is scarcely necessary for me to add, that I regret the necessity of being compelled to advert to so ungracious a subject, the renewal of which shall not originate on my part.

29. In addressing you on the present occasion I have adopted a mode which will obviate the necessity of exercising my privilege to appoint a committee to reply, out of deference to the opinion of such members as may consider such a course anomalous, and with the view of removing any cause for a want of harmony between the members of council and the President, and I cannot but believe that such a course on my part will be met by you in a corresponding spirit.

30. It is also my duty to call your serious attention to the condition of the militia of this colony, or the constitutional force "requisite to vindicate the dignity of its laws," and to the want of means necessary to maintain it in an efficient state. In these islands, having reference to the Turks Islands, where neither vegetables nor cereals are produced in any quantity, and where, therefore, the labourer has little or nothing to rely on for his subsistence but his daily labour in the pond, it seems hard to expect them to give up their time for drill without affording them some remuneration, and it was, I believe, with the latter humane intention, that the 9th and 10th sections of the militia ordinance were framed, providing for a paid volunteer corps. This provision has been almost inoperative, in consequence of the small annual amount hitherto voted for the purpose. I have therefore caused a sum to be placed in the estimates which I think will be sufficient to carry out this desirable institution, and which I trust will also meet with your approval. On this subject I beg to refer you to the Right Honourable Sir E. B. Lytton's despatch to the Governor-in-Chief of the Leeward Islands of the 31st July 1858, presented to both Houses of Parliament by command of Her Majesty, and transmitted to the governors of Her Majesty's colonies, which was copied into the Turks Islands "Royal Standard" of the 9th October 1858, more particularly to the following sentence therein contained:—"There can be no "safety to life or security to property, and to the transactions of commerce, in that community which "does not earnestly and resolutely seek to develop within itself the requisite force to vindicate the "dignity of its own laws against the outbreaks of internal disorder." Words emanating from such a source are not to be regarded lightly. A report, dated 31st December 1858, which I have received from Lieut.-Colonel Arthur, commanding the militia of this colony, states, that "there are here two volunteer "companies of marine artillery, consisting of forty-five non-commissioned officers and men, and two "companies of infantry, composed of 140 non-commissioned officers and men." Colonel Arthur proceeds to state, that "one volunteer company of artillery is now drilled weekly with the rifle musket, and "that as artillerymen they are very efficient;" but it is necessary for me to add, that the drill of the volunteer company has been suspended since the 12th March last, in consequence of the want of means to pay the men, in accordance with the sections of the ordinance above mentioned. On this subject I have further to inform you, that I have received a circular despatch to the effect that the Secretary of State for the Colonies had intimated to Major-General Peel his opinion, that, in order to render the different militia corps established in the West Indies as efficient as possible, a sytematic inspection of the local corps should be made each year by some properly qualified officer, in which opinion Major-General Peel had expressed his concurrence, and stated that the necessary steps would be taken for carrying it into effect. It is not out of place, at the same time, to direct your attention to the great continental struggle at present commencing in Europe, and to the interests which may thereby be compromised, possibly preventing Great Britain from preserving her neutrality. It is part of our creed to believe that Great Britain united can hold her own against the world, nor is it, in regard to that view of the subject, unpleasing to read the extract from the "Times" of the 18th May, which appeared in the Turks Islands "Royal Gazette" of the 22d instant, containing these words, "if, unfortunately, England "be compelled to take part in the war, it will be with such power and resources at command as will

" astound the world;" but to enable her to make use of those resources, every one of her sons, from the humblest to the most exalted, and I may add every one of her colonies, from the smallest island to the most extended continent, must perform their duty within their own sphere of action. Ours at this moment seems plain enough, namely, to organise and maintain such a militia and volunteer force as will enable this colony to dispense, if necessary, with the presence of the small detachment of Her Majesty's troops, at present and hitherto quartered here, which it is not improbable may be called on to serve imperial interests elsewhere.

31. A correct census of the population of these islands will be acknowledged to be much wanted, as there can be little doubt that either that of 1851 was incompletely taken, or that the population has increased since then in an unexampled manner. The fact of nearly one thousand children having been lately vaccinated here and at Salt Cay, at neither of which places parents showed much anxiety to adopt this prophylactic means so freely placed at their disposal for guarding against a dire disease which has been raging in neighbouring ports, would seem to maintain the correctness of the latter hypothesis. Much has been said here lately on the paucity of labour at the command of the salt pond proprietor, and its exorbitant rates; public meetings have been held and resolutions passed from which there has been no apparent result, although it seems to be generally admitted that an increase in the labour market is imperative. In 1855 I called the attention of the council to the state of the Caicos settlements, as brought to my notice by the reports of Mr. St. George Tucker, the assistant stipendiary magistrate for the Caicos Islands, and the advantage that would accrue to the colony generally by inducing the squatters there to visit the salt producing islands during the season when labour is most in demand. The increase among the squatting population is, I am led to believe, even larger proportionately than in the Salt Islands; the Caicos settlements are in fact the nursery of the colony; a mine of gold lying unproductive and unheeded; the people are at your doors, and might be introduced into the productive portions of the colony, at a comparatively trifling cost to what would be required for the importation of labour from abroad, which to be undertaken successfully would at all events, in the first instance, lead to an increase of taxation. I have been informed lately by a member of council that he succeeded at one time in procuring a small number of labourers from the Caicos, but that as soon as they had made by their labour in his ponds sufficient money to purchase a few luxuries, they returned home. This fact I think proves that these people might be induced by proper encouragement to come over to the Turks Islands periodically, and that if a taste for something more than the mere necessaries of life were induced among them, and they were taught that it is a "barbarism " of the worst kind which will content itself by feeding on the coarsest material, instead of working for " the best," they would labour to procure it.

32. The cessation here since March last of any regular mail service is, I have reason to believe, only temporary. In October 1858 I had the honour to receive from the Governor-in-Chief copy of a despatch (on the subject of certain irregularities in the mail service) from the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies, also of a communication addressed to the Secretary of the Admiralty by the Right Honourable the Earl of Carnarvon, and of a reply to the same from Mr. W. G. Romaine, dated Admiralty, 2d August, 1858 wherein it is stated, with reference to these irregularities in the performance of the mail service, as regarded this colony, that arrangements were in course of preparation for establishing a monthly communication with the Bahamas, by means of a screw steamship from New York, in connection with the leeward line of packets, when it was trusted that these irregularities would cease. A memorial from the inhabitants of Grand Turk and Salt Cay, addressed to the Secretary of State, and recommended to favourable consideration by the Executive Council, was, however, subsequently transmitted, praying that the route for the conveyance of the Turks Islands mails might still be continued, as heretefore, viâ St. Thomas; a communication from the General Post Office having been meanwhile received here, stating that they would be forwarded as usual by that route. It would appear, however, that no arrangement has yet been made by the Admiralty for their transmission from St. Thomas to this place. It will be for you, therefore, to consider whether it would not be better to make a temporary arrangement for this purpose, than to trust to the present unsatisfactory plan of taking advantage of such casual and rare opportunities as occur for transmitting mails to and receiving them from St. Thomas. I shall lay before you some suggestions received from the postmaster, which I think are worthy of consideration, and which, if approved of, will involve some amendments of the present Postal Ordinance, No. 5. of 1854. I am instructed to report as early as possible on the subject of the compulsory pre-payment of postage; a subject of which was laid before the council at its last session, but on which no determination was arrived; and I am further to inform you, that should your concurrence to the adoption of this measure, to which Her Majesty's Government attaches particular importance, have hitherto been withheld from a reluctance to stop and return to the writers letters posted unpaid, there will be no objection to the colonial post office reserving to itself the right of sending forward unpaid letters, charged with the postage and a fine of sixpence, such fine being divided equally between the mother country and the colony; while the general post office would reserve to itself the right to make a corresponding regulation with respect to letters posted in England.

33. I have lately received a proposition from Dr. John D. Russ, on the subject of forming the northern creek of Grand Turk into a harbour of refuge. This project, which is proposed to be effected by means of a ship canal entering into the creek, to be combined with marine and other railways, for the repairs of shipping and conveyance of salt, would prove the means of rendering Turks Islands, from the central position they occupy as regards the West Indies, and their extreme salubrity, an important commercial depôt and coaling station for steamers. Toward effecting such an object an ordinance will be introduced, granting to a company, to be styled the "Turks Islands Harbour and " Railroad Company," certain corporate rights, some or all of which you may possibly think proper to concede. To expatiate on the advantages which must accrue to public and private interests in this colony generally by utilising this land-locked harbour, where a fleet could lie moored as in a dock, which indeed it is, of nature's handiwork—containing sufficient water for any class of merchant vessels and most men of war, would at present be premature, and is even unnecessary, as no words of mine could enhance advantages which must be obvious to every individual in the colony. Such a work,

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which in its widest sense may be considered a national one, in the benefits arising from which every maritime nation at peace with Great Britain might participate, would reflect credit on any country, and must, therefore, if brought to a successful issue by its promoters, reflect on them and on this colony an honour which would endure with the work itself.

34. An arrangement has been concluded, with the consent of Her Majesty's Government, for the purchase of the premises hitherto rented and occupied for certain public offices, known as the Public Buildings, as well as for the premises hitherto rented and occupied as military barracks, the amounts for the same to be defrayed from Her Majesty's Crown funds of the colony. With reference, however, to the former premises, I am instructed that as the general revenue will be benefited by their purchase, an annual sum equal to the amount of rent which the colony will save by it must be contributed from the colonial treasury, until the purchase money is liquidated, which will extend probably over a period of five years.

35. I regret that Ordinance No. 8. of 1851, to establish a public library, has hitherto proved comparatively abortive, one cause being the want of an appropriate reading room. It may be well to recall to your memory that the second section of that ordinance provides for an annual contribution from the revenue for the purpose of maintaining a library equal to the amount of subscriptions and value of donations obtained in each respective year, such sum, however, from the general revenue, not to exceed 50*l.* in any one year. The gentleman who has hitherto acted as librarian states two objections which he has heard offered to its present management; which are, first, that the trusteeship is exclusively placed in members of council, and that it would be desirable that it should be held by such members as may be appointed annually by the executive, conjointly with others, who should be appointed by vote from the body of subscribers; the second objection being that the books now in the library are no longer interesting, having been already well read. The first objection might possibly be remedied without the inconvenience of amending the ordinance, while the last is not without grounds for congratulation, as affording proof that subscribers would increase with an increase of books, to obtain a fresh supply of which, however, subscriptions are in the first instance necessary. Although I have hitherto endeavoured to rid the colony of the expensive mode of hiring buildings for public purposes, there would be nothing, I apprehend, repugnant to the ordinance, against a temporary room being hired by the trustees for the purpose of containing the library, which might be used as a public reading room, the rent of which might be defrayed out of increased subscriptions, together with the amount provided by the ordinance, all which sums are to be directed to be applied " towards " the purchase and procuring of books and other requisites for the same." The success which attended the generous efforts of the public of these islands in carrying out the Indian Relief Fund Bazaar is suggestive of what might be accomplished here by similar means, for some worthy local institution, and there is surely nothing more worthy of public patronage, and which would tend more to ensure social intercourse, than the establishment of a well-conducted reading room and library.

36. I have received by the last mail a letter from the Secretary of the Fund for the Relief of the Sufferers by the Mutiny in India, dated at 27, Cannon Street, London, 3d March 1859, in which he is requested to express to the several donors in this colony the high estimation in which their bountiful subscriptions are held by the Committee; that Messrs. Ommanney, Son, & Co., (who peformed this service gratuitously,) had paid over the sum of 373*l.* 6*s.* 4*d.*, as the produce of the specie transmitted, and that the subscriptions would in due course be advertised in the " Times," some copies of which would be forwarded. I also take this means to express my appreciation of the services rendered to this good cause by the ministers of the Gospel; by the numerous ladies of Grand Turk, Salt Cay, and East Harbour, who not only worked so well and so zealously, but from some of whom contributions were received of beautiful and costly gifts; by the brethren of " The Turks Islands Fourth Lodge," Free and Accepted Masons, never backward in charity; by the givers of the amateur concerts; and by the public generally, who patronized the Indian Relief Bazaar so liberally.

37. On the subject of public education I shall lay before you a return from the Inspector of Public Schools, showing the average number of scholars in daily attendance at and on the register of each of these schools throughout the colony, also the amount of weekly fees collected therein during the years 1857–8 respectively. By this table, Mr. Ockenden remarks, in a report dated 20th May last, that the average number of children belonging to the several schools during 1858 was 382, and the average daily attendance was 264, which numbers, compared with the preceding year, he further remarks, show a decrease of 46 and 24 respectively. Mr. Ockenden accounts for this, 1st, by the fact of the school at Kew no longer appearing in the returns, the Board of Education having, at the close of 1857, relinquished the slight control previously exercised over it by virtue of a small annual payment in aid of the master's salary; and, 2d, that in consequence of a resolution adopted by the Board of Education in June 1858, to enforce the payment of the weekly fees at the schools throughout the colony generally, which had never been insisted on previously at Lorimers', the school at the latter place had diminished at first to a considerable extent, the monthly returns, however, subsequently received from the assistant master up to the close of 1858, indicating, in Mr. Ockenden's opinion, that this diminution would be of temporary duration.

38. Mr. Ockenden remarks in the same report, that the boys' shcool at Grand Turk fully sustains the reputation it has borne for the last three or four years; the table before alluded to exhibiting an increase in this school of nine in daily attendance and eleven on the register, in favour of 1858, as compared with 1857, together with a return of fees, amounting to 22*l.* 14*s.* 2½*d.*, exceeding those of 1857 by 4*l.* 7*s.* 1*d.*

39. Mr. Ockenden quotes in his report, from a leading article in the Turks Islands "Royal Standard" of the 26th February last, on the subject of the public examinations which took place in that month, which stated that the " exercises on that occasion, gone through at the boys' school at Grand Turk, " were generally very creditably executed, showing a marked improvement in several branches of " instruction since the examination of the previous year; that, as usual, the exhibition of the senior " class was the most interesting, the boys of this class showing great proficiency in their generally " ready answers to questions in arithmetic, grammar, geography, and sacred and profane history, an " examination in matters which took them over a vast surface of knowledge, and for which no special " arrangement appeared to have been made, providing any fixed lessons for the occasion." In these remarks I believe that all present at that examination will concur.

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40. Mr. Ockenden further remarks, that the girls' school at Grand Turk also shows a slight increase in the number of scholars and the amount of weekly payments; the latter amounting in 1858 to 8*l.* 16*s.* 3*d.*, against 6*l.* 6*s.* 3*d.* in 1857. At the infants' school at Grand Turk, Mr. Ockenden further remarks, that the fees collected in 1858 amounted to nearly 18*l.*, being an increase of about 4*l.* over 1857.

41. A new arrangement regarding the public schools at Salt Cay, in consequence of which the girls' and infants' school was closed on the 31st December 1858 and the boys' school on the 2d June instant, by order of the Board of Education, renders it unnecessary for me to allude to them further at present than by stating that a mixed school will be open there after the Midsummer holidays, under the immediate charge of Mr. J. T. Presley, who has been educated at the British and Foreign Borough Road Training Institution, and regarding whom a communication has been received from the secretary of that institution, testifying to Mr. Presley's high qualifications as a teacher.

42. The total weekly fees taken in 1858 at the public schools amounted to 76*l.*, which is a larger return than that of any other year since their establishment, and is no contemptible amount (although collected in sums of 1½*d.*, the smallest coin in circulation within these islands,) in aid of the liberal amount contributed by this colony towards the cause of education.

43. In taking into consideration the number of scholars in the public schools of this colony, as compared with its population, Mr. Ockenden remarks, that it must not be forgotten that the great scarcity of adult labour still continues, and that it is supplied to the utmost possible extent by the labour of mere children, boys from 11 to 14, Mr. Ockenden is assured, receiving from 1*s.* 6*d.* to 2*s.* sterling per day. A considerably less amount, Mr. Ockenden states, is found sufficient in many parts of England to induce parents to neglect the education of their children rather than forego the profits derived from their labour. The wonder is, therefore, in Mr. Ockenden's opinion, not that the number of children in the public schools during the last few years has increased but slightly in one place and decreased somewhat in another, but that the schools have not been almost entirely deserted by the children of the labouring classes for whose benefit they are sustained.

44. A statement of the colonial expenditure from the 1st January to the 31st December 1858, together with the estimates for 1860, will be laid before you at our next meeting.

W. R INGLIS,
President.

Sub-Enc. 2.

Sub-Enclosure 2.

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS.

A COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of the Value of and Duties paid upon Imports into and Exports from the Turks and Caicos Islands, for the Years ending 31st December 1857 and 1858 respectively, together with the Number of Vessels, Amount of Tonnage, and Number of Men, Inwards and Outwards, for the same Period.

PORTS OF ENTRY.	1857.								
	Imports.		Inwards.			Exports.		Outwards.		
	Value, Sterling.	Duties.	No.	Tons.	Men.	Value, Sterling.	Duties.	No.	Tons.	Men.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.				£ s. d.	£ s. d.			
Grand Turk -	27,477 5 8	2,794 8 5	242	26,417	1,495	16,576 5 4	669 9 1	225	25,599	1,415
Salt Cay - -	4,803 11 6	609 0 9	86	13,601	567	8,743 5 5	447 15 3	88	13,359	569
Cockburn Harbour	1,137 5 8	59 15 9	45	5,804	279	3,779 2 7	204 19 6	44	5,789	275
Total -	33,418 2 10	3,463 4 11	373	*45,822	2,341	29,098 13 4	1,322 3 10	357	44,747	2,259
	1858.									
Grand Turk -	37,784 18 7	3,895 18 11	285	36,289	1,818	21,523 2 11	924 0 6	265	32,650	1,697
Salt Cay - -	3,500 2 11	664 6 0	99	16,804	665	11,104 8 0	719 3 8	117	20,434	784
Cockburn Harbour	299 3 3	23 12 4	34	5,827	237	3,633 3 7	256 1 9	50	7,509	328
Total -	41,584 4 9	4,583 17 3	418	†58,920	2,720	36,260 14 6	1,899 5 11	432	60,593	2,809

* Including 6,873 tons entered at more than one port in the colony.
† Exclusive of 8,635 tons entered at more than one port in the colony.

A COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of the Quantity in Bushels and Value of Salt exported from the Turks and Caicos Islands, for the Years ending 31st December 1857 and 1858 respectively.

PORTS OF ENTRY.	1857.		1858.	
	Bushels of Salt.	Value, Sterling.	Bushels of Salt.	Value, Sterling.
		£ s. d.		£ d.
Grand Turk - -	642,676	13,009 4 10	887,064	15,704 16 6
Salt Cay - -	429,852	8,464 12 2	690,416	11,037 17 9
Cockburn Harbour -	196,776	3,779 2 7	245,844	3,633 3 7
Total - -	1,269,304	25,252 19 7	1,823,324	30,375 17 10

Receiver General's Office,
Grand Turk, 7th May 1859.

D. T. SMITH,
Receiver General and Treasurer.

By Command of his Honour the President.
J. J. M'INTOSH,
Colonial Secretary.

* Turks Islands.

Sub-Enclosure 3.

A Table showing what Amounts, in the Receiver General's Abstract of the Net Revenue and Expenditure of the Turks and Caicos Islands for the Year 1858, have been defrayed respectively from the Colonial Revenue and from the Crown Funds; and under what Heads Payments from those several Funds have been therein consolidated.

Colonial and Crown Funds combined.																	
I.—Ordinary and fixed Expenditure.				Contingent and accidental.			Total.			Amounts from the Colonial Revenue.			Amounts from the Crown Funds.			Total.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Executive	950	0	0	—			950	0	0	950	0	0	—			950	0	0
Colonial Secretary	455	0	0	11	9	8	466	9	8	466	9	8	—			466	9	8
Judicial	670	18	4	13	16	3	684	14	7	684	14	7	—			684	14	7
Financial	995	0	0	98	3	7	1,093	3	7	1,093	3	7	—			1,093	3	7
Ecclesiastical	673	18	4	63	3	11¾	737	2	3¾	723	18	4	13	3	11¾	737	2	3¾
Gaols	375	0	0	164	9	10½	539	9	10½	516	17	8¾	22	12	1¾	539	9	10½
Police	811	3	0	11	5	1	822	8	1	374	12	3½	447	15	9½	822	8	1
Post Office	65	0	0	5	16	8¼	70	16	8¼	65	12	6	5	4	2	70	16	8¼
Public Schools	650	0	0	—			650	0	0	450	0	0	200	0	0	650	0	0
Lighthouse	170	0	0	251	19	5¼	421	19	5¼	414	14	5½	7	4	11⅜	421	19	5¼
Militia	—			12	4	3	12	4	3	11	11	9	0	12	6	12	4	3
Poorhouse and Hospital	137	12	6	196	4	2	333	16	8	—			333	16	8	333	16	8
Auditor	100	0	0	—			100	0	0	—			100	0	0	100	0	0
Miscellaneous	80	0	0	—			80	0	0	60	0	0	20	0	0	80	0	0
	6,133	12	2	828	12	11¾	6,962	5	1¾	5,811	14	11	1,150	10	2¾	6,962	5	1¾
II.—Disbursements on account of Miscellaneous Civil Services.																		
Public Printing										151	11	6	51	11	0½			
Stationery										30	0	0	—					
Coroners' Inquests										16	13	2	—					
Distribution of Seizures										2	10	10	—					
Registration of Voters for Legislatures										21	7	6	—					
Drawbacks of Imports re-exported										44	19	0	—					
Ditto for Bazaars										24	5	8	—					
Ditto from Widows' and Orphans' Fund										100	12	7	—					
Pensions paid from ditto										18	0	0	—					
Interest on Debentures										91	18	4	—					
Works and Buildings.																		
New Buildings										—			472	18	7¾			
Repairs										—			209	17	3¼			
										501	18	7	734	6	11½			
Payments on account of Purchase of Waterloo										—			384	10	6			
Furniture for Government House										—			15	19	11			
Rain Gauges, Barometers, and Salometers										—			14	0	1			
Travelling Expenses of his Honour the President and the Crown Commissioner to and from Salt Cay and Cockburn Harbour										—			5	4	2			
Ditto of Assistant Stipendiary Justice to and from Lorimers', Caicos, for Judicial Purposes										—			5	8	4			
Bonus for Ice										—			17	10	0			
Cleaning, planting, and keeping Grounds at Waterloo										—			24	13	2¾			
										501	18	7	1,201	18	2¼			
																1,703	11	9¼
III.—Military Disbursements defrayed by the Colony.																		
Ordinary.																		
Rent of Barracks										—			85	0	0			
Contingent.							£	s.	d.									
Repairs to Barracks							5	16	1¾									
Landing and embarking Troops							7	5	10	—			13	1	11¾	98	1	11¾
										6,313	13	6	2,450	5	4¾	8,763	18	10¾

ROBERT J. DARRELL,
Auditor.

Sub-Enclosure 4.

TABLE showing the Annual Value of Imports from Great Britain, British Colonies, the United States, and other Places into the Turks and Caicos Islands, and the Annual Value of Exports from these Islands to the above-mentioned Places, from 1851 to 1858, both Years inclusive.

YEAR.	Great Britain.		British West Indies.*		British North America.†		United States of America.		Other Places.‡		TOTAL.	
	Imports from.	Exports to.	Imports from.	Exports to.	Imports from.	Exports to.	Imports from.	Exports to.	Imports from.	Exports to.	Imports.	Exports.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1851 - -	2,769 1 2	—	4,807 3 0	1,442 8 10	488 16 2	1,491 5 8	12,534 17 3	14,567 16 6	4,524 13 11	2,097 5 7	25,124 11 6	19,598 16 7
1852 - -	6,377 11 6	—	6,010 15 11	948 12 10	442 19 2	816 19 4	9,268 9 8	21,253 19 5	7,367 17 10	1,806 9 9	29,467 14 1	24,826 1 4
1853 - -	3,629 4 7	—	4,601 1 4	1,470 2 6	9 5 7	2,356 6 4	17,398 9 6	23,676 17 0	6,840 14 10	3,014 17 1	32,478 15 10	30,518 2 11
1854 - -	3,598 19 11	—	8,430 17 8	1,719 14 8	122 0 0	4,687 12 4	13,872 4 0	46,263 11 10	8,239 6 1	2,267 15 3	34,263 7 8	54,938 14 1
1855 - -	8,163 16 1	—	6,095 0 3	1,944 9 7	357 15 1	1,099 18 3	20,514 19 1	22,278 11 7	4,567 5 2	2,219 4 1	39,698 15 8	27,542 3 6
1856 - -	2,984 11 8	—	5,939 11 5	880 10 7	54 17 4	1,881 11 3	17,912 0 2	21,745 18 9	6,632 6 11	2,556 2 6	33,523 7 6	27,064 3 1
1857 - -	4,307 9 2	—	6,438 16 7	1,142 16 10	10 0 0	3,064 0 6	16,578 12 8	22,591 8 7	6,083 4 5	2,476 3 1	33,418 2 10	29,274 9 0
1858 - -	3,912 4 9	—	6,796 2 11	1,433 7 11	1,281 14 3	2,826 11 7	23,336 19 2	29,111 19 8	6,257 3 8	2,888 15 4	41,584 4 9	36,260 14 6
TOTALS -	35,742 18 10	—	49,119 9 1	10,982 3 9	2,767 7 7	18,224 5 3	131,416 11 6	201,490 3 4	50,512 12 10	19,326 12 8	269,558 19 10	250,023 5 0

* Principally the Bahamas, Bermuda, and Barbadoes.

† Principally Nova Scotia.

‡ Principally the Islands of St. Thomas and St. Domingo.

Compiled from the Turks and Caicos Islands "Blue Books" and Customs Returns.

ALEX. C. LOWE,
Private Secretary.

TURKS ISLANDS.

Sub-Encl. 5.

Sub-Enclosure 5.

TABLE showing the Number, Tonnage, and Crews of Vessels of each Nation entered and cleared at the Turks and Caicos Islands during the Years 1855, 6, 7, 8.

NATIONALITY, &c. OF VESSELS ENTERED.

YEAR.	BRITISH.			UNITED STATES.			HAYTIEN AND DOMINICAN.			DANISH.			TOTAL.		
	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.
1855	190	10,202	1,024	56	10,283	461	27	329	88	—	—	—	273	20,814	1,573
1856	208	12,010	1,218	84	16,871	600	13	205	50	—	—	—	395	29,086	1,868
1857	228	16,234	1,291	137	29,456	1,015	8	132	35	—	—	—	373	45,822	2,341
1858	212	17,756	1,276	193	40,698	1,377	10	150	42	3	316	25	418	58,920	2,720
	838	56,202	4,809	470	97,308	3,453	58	816	215	3	316	25	1,369	154,642	8,502

NATIONALITY, &c. OF VESSELS CLEARED.

YEAR.	BRITISH.			UNITED STATES.			HAYTIEN AND DOMINICAN.			DANISH.			TOTAL.		
	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.
1855	177	9,734	966	44	9,695	397	34	405	119	—	—	—	255	19,834	1,482
1856	227	12,679	1,279	81	15,999	586	15	262	60	—	—	—	323	28,940	1,925
1857	239	19,424	1,408	103	25,118	795	15	205	56	—	—	—	357	44,747	2,259
1858	216	17,165	1,299	204	43,027	1,449	10	148	41	2	253	20	432	60,593	2,809
	859	59,002	4,952	432	93,839	3,227	74	1,020	276	2	253	20	1,367	154,114	8,475

Compiled from the Turks and Caicos Islands "Blue Books" for the above Years.

ALEX. C. LOWE,
Private Secretary.

Sub-Encl. 6.

Sub-Enclosure 6.

Grand Turk, Turks Islands,
May 22, 1859.

SIR,

1. I HAVE the honour of presenting to you a brief report on the state of the public schools for the year ended the 31st of December last.

2. From the accompanying table it will be seen that the average number of children belonging to the several schools, during the year 1858, was 382, and the average daily attendance 264. Compared with the immediately preceding year, these numbers show a decrease of 46 and 24 respectively. This is accounted for to a great extent by the school at Kew no longer figuring in my returns, the Board of Education having relinquished, at the close of 1857, the slight control it previously exercised over that school, by virtue of a small annual payment in aid of the master's salary.

3. Lorimers'.—The principal diminution in the number of scholars at the schools in existence last year took place at Lorimers'. This was occasioned, beyond a doubt, chiefly to a most judicious resolution which was adopted by the Board of Education in June last, to enforce the payment of the weekly fees at the schools generally. As this had never been in the least insisted on previously at Lorimers', it was foretold at the time that diminished numbers in that school in the first instance would be the almost inevitable result of the board's resolution, and this prediction was fully verified. The monthly returns, however, subsequently received from the assistant-master, to the end of last year, indicate, what was also predicted, that the diminution would be but of temporary duration.

4. Grand Turk.—The boys' school of this town, I think I may say without egotism, fully sustains the fame and reputation it has borne the last three or four years.

5. The recent public examinations, however, of the three schools at this Cay, afforded ample opportunities, which your Honour was pleased to avail yourself of to the fullest extent, as usual, of judging personally of the merits of those schools, and whether the above commendation of the principal one, and the remarks elicited by the examination from the press of the colony on the three in general, are rightly and deservedly bestowed.

6. It may not be considered out of place here, perhaps, to quote briefly from a leading article which appeared on the subject of the examination in the "Royal Standard" of the 26th February last.

"The exercises went through with were generally very creditably executed, showing a marked "improvement in several branches of instruction since the last year's examination. As usual, and "naturally enough, the exhibition of the senior class in the boys' school was the most interesting. The "boys of this class showed great proficiency in their generally ready answers to questions in arith- "metic, grammar, geography, and sacred and profane history, an examination in matters which took "them over a vast surface of knowledge, and for which, too, no special arrangement appeared to have "been made by providing any fixed lessons for the occasion."

7. The numbers in attendance and on the books at the boys' school exhibit an increase of 9 and 11 respectively, in favour of 1858, as compared with the immediately preceding year.

8. The amount of weekly fees collected in the same school last year was 22*l.* 14*s.* 2½*d.*, exceeding that of 1857 by 4*l.* 7*s.* 1*d.*

9. In the girls' school of this town a slight increase is observable in favour of last year, both in the number of scholars and the amount of weekly payments. These latter amounted to 8*l.* 16*s.* 3*d.*, whilst in 1857 they only reached 6*l.* 6*s.* 3*d.*

10. The infants' school here shows a small decrease in the total number on the registers, as compared with 1857, whilst a slight increase is perceptible in the attendance.

11. The fees collected amounted to very nearly 18*l.*, an increase of about 4*l.* over 1857.

12. Salt Cay.—Your Honour is aware that various circumstances combined have induced the Board of Education recently to resolve on effecting a change in the schools of Salt Cay. Instead of continuing to keep up two separate schools, in which the joint numbers on an average for the last five years have been found not more than sufficient to form one, it has been determined to unite them, so soon as a properly trained master, who has already been sent for to the British and Foreign School Society's Institution in London, shall have arrived here.

13. Cockburn Harbour.—The school which was opened at this port in March 1858 presents an average daily attendance for that year of 24, out of a total number on the books of 32. These numbers, however, from the assistant master's monthly returns, appear to have fallen off considerably during the first four months of the present year, in consequence of which I have just received instructions from the Board of Education to direct particular attention to this subject, with the view of ascertaining the cause of the decrease, if possible, on making my usual tour at the Caicos this year, which I expect to be doing very shortly.

14. Fees.—The weekly fees collected in the several schools during the past year slightly exceeded the sum of 76*l.*, an amount considerably greater than that of any other year since the establishment of the public schools. With regard to this subject, I find it to be here precisely as it is found in England, that is to say, where the teaching is most effective, at those schools the parents of children generally exhibit a laudable willingness rather than an unworthy reluctance, to pay the small weekly fee required of them.

15. My annual report to your Honour for 1857 alluded to a slight diminution in the total number of scholars in the public schools that year, as compared with the immediately preceding one; and it proved, I think, that the cause was principally attributable to the great scarcity of labour in the colony at the time, and the consequent demand for that afforded by children. From the present report it is evident that the diminution in 1858 beyond that of 1857 is attributable, in the first place, to the school at Kew no longer appearing in the returns; and, secondly, to a wise determination on the part of the Board of Education in June last to make the payment of a small weekly fee for each scholar, charged in accordance with Section X. of the Education Ordinance, compulsory (except in very special cases) on all belonging to the public schools. Notwithstanding the smallness of the fee imposed,—only one penny halfpenny, the value of the lowest coin in this presidency,—yet the immediate effect of the board's resolution was to reduce the number belonging to the school at Lorimers' from 107 to 44. At the end of last year, however, the number in that school stood at 60, and all (with the exception of two or three destitute orphans) were paying the stipulated fee. There is therefore every reason, in my opinion, for concluding that the resolution alluded to (and which the board was really compelled to adopt or close some of the schools for want of funds) will prove, eventually, a most salutary and beneficial measure.

16. In conclusion, I beg to observe, that, in comparing the number of scholars in the public schools with the population of the place, it must not be forgotten that the great scarcity of adult labour in the colony still continues, and that it is supplied to the utmost possible extent by the labour of mere children, for which excessively high wages are given. I am assured that the usual wages of boys between 11 and 14 years of age has long been from one shilling and sixpence to two shillings sterling per day. A considerably less amount is found sufficient in many parts of England even to induce parents to neglect the education of their children, rather than forego the profits derived from their labour. What then can be expected in a people whose intense anxiety for present pecuniary gain is conspicuous in their almost every action? The surprise to me, indeed, is, not that the number of children in the public schools the last few years have increased but slightly in one place and decreased somewhat in another, but that they have not been almost entirely deserted by the children of the labouring classes.

17. It may be added, that the extraordinarily large crop of salt with which Providence was pleased to bless Turks Islands last year tended to make the want of labour to which I have alluded more extensively felt.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) THOMAS OCKENDEN,
Inspector, &c., Public Schools.

His Honour President Inglis.

TURKS ISLANDS.

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS.

A RETURN of the average Number of Scholars in daily Attendance at and belonging to each of the Public Schools, also the Amount of Weekly Fees collected therein, during the Years ended 31st December 1857 and 1858 respectively.

Locality.	School.	1857.		1858.		Increase.		Decrease.		Excess of Decrease over Increase.		Fees received.					
		In Attendance.	On Register.	In Attendance.	On Register.	In Attendance.	On Register.	In Attendance.	On Register.	On Register. 46	In Attendance. 24	1857.			1858.		
												£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Grand Turk	Boys	49	66	58	77	9	11	—	—			18	7	1½	22	14	2½
	Girls	19	29	23	33	4	4	—	—			6	6	3	8	16	3
	Infants	49	74	51	68	2	—	—	6			14	2	9	17	18	7½
Salt Cay	Boys	22	41	24	40	2	—	—	1			6	14	10½	9	7	6
	Girls and Infants	26	46	22	35	—	—	4	11			4	11	3	6	1	7½
Caicos. Lorimers'	Mixed	78	125	62	97	—	—	16	28			0	0	1½	5	2	5½
Caicos. Kew	Ditto	45	47	—	—	—	—	45	47				—			—	
Caicos. E. Harbour	Ditto	—	—	24	32	24	32	—	—				—		6	0	4½
		288	428	264	382	41	47	65	93			50	2	4½	76	1	0½

(Signed) THOMAS OCKENDEN,
Inspector, &c.

TRINIDAD.

TRINIDAD.

No. 5.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor KEATE to His Grace the Duke of NEWCASTLE.

(No. 123.)

Trinidad, August 9, 1859.
(Received, August 31, 1859.)

MY LORD DUKE,

1. I HAVE the honour to forward to your Grace the Blue Book for Trinidad for the year 1858, and to report as follows upon the state of the Island.

2. I have no changes to report in the ordinary fiscal system of the Colony. Early in the year certain duties imposed in the latter part of the previous year for the special purpose of raising funds in aid of immigration in 1858, were repealed, as the prospects of immigration at that time did not seem to justify or require additional taxation; and the moneys already received were returned to the persons who had paid them.

In the latter part of the year the fees payable upon the indentures of Indian immigrants to be introduced in 1859 were again augmented with a like object; and still later an important addition was made to the temporary revenues of the Island by the imposition of certain wharfage dues for another special object—that of improving the quays of the town of Port of Spain.

3. The revenue derived from customs, and tonnage wharfage, and warehouse dues during 1858 was 86,297*l.*; but from this sum should be deducted the export duties levied, and afterwards refunded, as I have mentioned, amounting to 5,013*l.*, and the special wharfage dues imposed for improving the quays amounting to 1,230*l.*, leaving as the ordinary income of the Colony from these sources 80,054*l.* This amount is in excess of the previous year's receipts by 7,065*l.*

4. The excise duty on rum manufactured and consumed in the Colony produced 23,992*l.*, being in excess of the previous year's receipts by 1,371*l.*

5. The other sources of revenue, with the items previously deducted, raised the total revenue of the year to 145,391*l.*, being in excess of the previous year's income by 14,107*l.*

6. The total expenditure of the year amounted to 174,022*l.*, being in excess of the expenditure of the previous year by 45,111*l.*, owing principally to increased outlay upon immigration from India and upon public works, several buildings long in hand or in contemplation having been either completed, advanced, or begun.

7. The receipts and expenditure under the head of local revenues in 1858, as compared with 1857, give the following results—

Ward Unions.

Receipts in 1857 - - -	£24,189
„ 1858 - - -	25,780
Expenditure in 1857 - -	24,927
„ 1858 - -	25,105

Borough Council, Port of Spain.

Receipts in 1857 - - -	£6,981
„ 1858 - - -	6,225
Expenditure in 1857 - -	7,047
„ 1858 - -	7,103

Borough Council, San Fernando.

Receipts in 1857 - - -	£2,192
„ 1858 - - -	2,073
Expenditure in 1857 - -	2,151
„ 1858 - -	1,845

8. The public debt of the Island incurred for the promotion of immigration stood at the close of 1858 at 51,073*l.* 0*s.* 8*d.* due upon bonds held by the Bank of England, having been reduced to that sum from 64,073*l.* 0*s.* 8*d.* by redemption of bonds, and 125,000*l.* due upon debentures, for the repayment of which a sum of 22,053*l.* had already been invested as a sinking fund.

9. The expenditure of the Colony on account of its military defence amounted to 2,169*l.*, including the purchase of premises previously rented as a barrack for West Indian troops. There is no militia force in the Island, and the heterogeneous nature of its population interferes with every attempt to raise one; while, among other reasons, its proximity to the mainland of South America renders the maintenance of an efficient armed force within it peculiarly important. The expenditure for its military protection by Great Britain amounted in 1858 to 16,885*l.* Towards the close of the year one of those periodical outbreaks of fever, to which all garrisons in the West Indies are more or less liable, occurred, and a considerable mortality ensued among the officers and men of the detachment of European troops quartered in the neighbourhood of Port of Spain. This has given rise to an idea either that the climate of Trinidad is generally unhealthy, or that there is something particularly insalubrious in the site of the St. James's Barracks. All climes have their special diseases; and their immunities from diseases prevalent in other climates, and the general good health and longevity of the inhabitants of Trinidad, whether natives or otherwise, show that the balance of probabilities is not unfavourable to human life within it. And with regard to the site of the barracks, if it is true that they are injuriously affected to any appreciable extent by a swamp of no great size lying at some distance to leeward of them, and over which the wind only blows occasionally, the health of the town of Port of Spain itself ought, *a fortiori*, to suffer still more from the existence of a much larger swamp to windward of it, and over which the wind blows almost continuously. But such is not the case; and I cannot but think that, when the causes of this unfortunate mortality come to be thoroughly investigated, it will be found that they differ but little from those which act upon the sanitary condition of troops in all localities, and that climate and site were merely answerable for the form in which their operation showed itself.

10. Though the mutiny in India checked emigration for a time, many more Coolies arrived in the Island in 1858 than in the preceding year, but in both instances it fell short of the number sent for. The Agent General of Immigrants, of whose Annual Report I annex a copy, accounts for this increase by showing that the advantages offered by the Colony are becoming gradually better known in India.

About the usual number of immigrants, whose industrial residence had expired, returned to their country last year; but I observe now, that while an after result of the

TRINIDAD.

mutiny has evidently been to encourage that emigration which before its suppression it checked, there exists a much less strong desire on the part of the Coolies whose term of residence is approaching its termination to claim back passages.

11. An important alteration was inaugurated towards the latter end of the year in the machinery by which intending emigrants are collected, permission having been given to the several labour importing Colonies in the West Indies to establish their own separate agencies, in lieu of sharing in the one general agency at each Presidency, by which the service was previously conducted. This Colony has in consequence sent out its own agents to Calcutta and Madras, and added considerably thereby to its immigration expenditure. As the new plan has scarcely yet come into practical operation, it still remains to be seen how far this concession, which had been long called for, is really a boon to those for whose benefit and at whose express wish it was made.

12. A great deal was done during the year in completing, forwarding, and commencing public works, but the outlay for these purposes was not so largely in excess of that of the previous year as appears on the face of the comparative statements of expenditure. The new hospital in port of Spain, which was among the buildings completed, and which has cost from first to last about 29,000*l*., was commenced and carried more than half way through with a fund that had been suffered to accumulate under a special Order in Council for a great number of years. These accumulations were not treated as revenue, but placed in deposit, and their appropriation towards the construction of the hospital brought to account as returns of sums deposited with Government. It was not till this fund was exhausted by its accumulation being stopped by an alteration in the law itself under which it accrued, that recourse was had to the general revenue for finishing the work; upwards of 11,000*l*. were expended out of the fund in question in 1857. In comparing the outlay on public works, therefore, in that and the succeeding year, this sum should be added to the amount appearing in the schedule of expenditure during the former period. It reduces the excess to about 8,600*l*.

13. The other buildings completed and opened during the year were a lunatic asylum and a public bath house, while the erection of a second hospital was commenced and carried far towards completion in the town of San Fernando.

14. The most important Legislative enactments of the year were those which were passed, 1st for authorizing the issue of debentures for more convenient sums than was provided for under the original Ordinance for encouraging the formation of tramways; 2nd, For establishing a system of underground sewerage within the town of Port of Spain; 3rd, To authorize the execution on behalf of the Colonial Government of a contract with the Trinidad Railway Company (limited); and, 4th, For improving the quays of the town of Port of Spain which has been already referred to.

15. The first of these gave a considerable impetus to the progress of the Cipero and Chaguanas tramways, by enabling the Government to take up and advance to the Commissioners for their construction the amounts required to carry them on. The commencement of the sewerage works remains in abeyance till the Government can provide the funds requisite for their execution, which, however, a recent enactment is likely soon to place at its disposal. The preliminary surveys for a line of railway between Port of Spain and San Fernando have been made, and it is hoped that the Company will soon be in a position to commence active operations. The works for the improvement of the quays of Port of Spain are being vigorously prosecuted, but several years must elapse before the object can be completely obtained for which they have been undertaken.

16. No additions were made during the year to the ecclesiastical establishments of the Island, but the actual number of the clergy of the Church of England employed in it was augmented by the filling up of two curacies which had been for some little time unoccupied. A new church and a chapel were consecrated by the Bishop of Barbadoes, the latter of the two having been built entirely by voluntary contributions. A chapel in connexion with the Church of Rome was also commenced in Port of Spain, towards the erection of which assistance was given from the Public Treasury.

17. The year passed without the expected opening of the Queen's Collegiate School taking place. It has however since then been fully organized, and is now in operation, and in my next Annual Report I shall not fail to show with what success it has been attended. An addition of three primary ward schools has been made to the number given in my last Report, making the present number 27, and the pupils educated in them have increased to an average of 1,684 on the books, with a daily attendance averaging 985 throughout the year. The average number of pupils on the rolls of the Boys' Model

School in Port of Spain was 122, with a daily attendance of 82; and of the Girls' Model School 140, with an attendance of 111. The Annual Report of the Inspector of Schools, a copy of which is appended, speaks in higher terms of the latter than of the former establishment, and indeed I feel persuaded that it is an institution which is doing an infinity of good in a quiet and unostentatious manner in the town in which it is situated. It is not too much to expect that the change which the Inspector points out as being effected in so remarkable a manner in this school,—from rudeness, uncouthness, and ignorance, to order, neatness, and cleanliness,—will react upon the homes from which the pupils are drawn, and that future homes will bear the marks of this improvement. The roll of the Borough Council School for boys, in Port of Spain, shows an average of 165, and the average daily attendance at it was 89. The attendance at the Borough School for girls, an institution quite unworthy of the body by which it is supported, was not above an average of 20. It is very fortunate for the population of the town that the short comings of the Borough Council in this respect are to such an extent made up for by the admirable working of the Girls' Model School. The number of schools throughout the Island not supported by public funds, and most of which are infant schools under the directions of the clergy, was in 1858 twenty seven (27).

18. The returns of imports and exports, which, as the Blue Book is arranged, come next under review, show the following results:—

	£
Value of imports in 1857 - - -	800,820
Ditto 1858 - - -	825,969
Difference in favour of 1858 - -	25,149
Value of exports in 1857 - -	1,013,414
Ditto 1858 - - -	785,863
Difference against 1858 - - - -	227,551

But in 1856 the value of the exports of the Colony was stated at 546,296*l.*; there is, therefore, an increase as compared with that year of 138,567*l.*, and this may be taken as the correct expression of the progressive development of the productive powers of the Island, and of its trade; the extraordinary rise exhibited in the returns for 1857 being attributable to the exceptionable prices which ruled during that year. Of the principal staples of the Island the following quantities were exported in 1858:—

Sugar - - - - -	68,286,450 lbs.
Molasses - - - - -	898,595 gallons.
Rum - - - - - -	252,302 gallons.
Cocoa - - - - -	5,321,200 lbs.
Asphaltum - - - - -	3,161 tons.

The latter article, the product of the Pitch Lake at La Brea, is principally exported to France, where I believe it is chiefly used for the manufacture of artificial pavements. A large quantity of oil for illuminating and lubricating purposes was extracted from it during the year by some enterprizing Americans, who set up works in the vicinity of the lake, but I regret to say they have been forced to cease operations by the unhealthiness of the locality they had selected. I am not aware whether they have permanently given up the manufacture of these oils on the spot, but at present an illuminating oil made in America from the raw material is imported, which is found cheaper to burn, even as an imported article, in lamps adapted to its use, than cocoa-nut oil manufactured in the Island.

19. The shipping returns show that in 1858 there were entered at Port of Spain 790 vessels, whose aggregate tonnage amounted to 83,395 tons. The number of vessels entered at San Fernando was 50, of 4,442 tons. The clearances from the two ports were, from Port of Spain, 796 vessels of 84,174 tons; from San Fernando, 49 vessels of 4,501 tons, making a total for the whole Island of 840 vessels of 87,837 tons, and crews amounting to 5,859 entering, and 845 vessels of 88,675 and crews to the number of 6,027 clearing.

20. Of these vessels 152 with a tonnage of 27,129, and 65 of a tonnage of 6,899, entered from the United States and British North America respectively, all with cargoes. Of the former 21 were British, of the latter two were foreign. 117, of a tonnage of 4,511, entered from Venezuela, of which 23 were foreign, all but 8 with cargoes. To the same places were cleared, viz., to the United States, 36 vessels of 6,940 tons, 10 of which were

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British, 7, that is, with cargoes, and 3 in ballast; of the remainder, 11 were in ballast, To British North America 28 of a tonnage of 3,077. All of these were British, and out of the number 13 were in ballast. To Venezuela were cleared 167 of a tonnage of 5,984 of which 138 were British, and 29 foreign; of the whole number 123 were in ballast.

21. The imports from the United Kingdom in 1858 are valued at 372,853*l.* Those from the three countries I have selected in my remarks on the shipping returns at 287,789*l.* in the following proportions: from the United States, 195,184*l.*, from British North America 42,789*l.*; from Venezuela 49,816*l.* This latter sum no doubt is swelled to some extent by imports entered for re-exportation. From all British Colonies, other than British North America and including India, the importations are valued at 76,042*l.*, and from all foreign countries, exclusively of the United States and Venezuela, at 89,285*l.*, of which France, with its colonies of Martinique and Guadeloupe, stands for 78,081*l.* The exports to the United Kingdom, on the other hand, were valued at 672,838*l.*; to the United States at only 23,663*l.*; to British North America at only 1,790*l.*, and to Venezuela at 17,199*l.*: to all other British Colonies at 29,900*l.*, and to all other foreign countries at 40,473*l.*, of which France and its West Indian Colonies receive only to the value of 25,935*l.*

22. The exports to Great Britain, the United States, and British North America, are almost exclusively the produce and manufacture of the Colony. Those to Venezuela, on the contrary, are mostly re-exportations of European goods. Those to all British Colonies, other than British North America, come partly under the former, but to a much greater extent under the latter head, representing in this respect the part taken by Trinidad in the constant interchange of imported articles of consumption which goes on among the West Indian Colonies. The same may be said of the exports to the French West India Islands, but those direct to France are almost entirely of local produce, consisting chiefly of asphaltum, cocoa, and a small quantity of sugar and rum, all valued together at 22,519*l.* There is no export trade with the East Indies, the imports from thence being almost entirely rice, brought in the immigrant ships. The export trade with other foreign places, omitting Venezuela, is mostly confined to the islands of Porto Rico and St. Thomas's, and is too insignificant to call for comment.

23. While, then, Trinidad ships to the United Kingdom almost the whole produce of its soil and industry, it draws its supplies from various sources, and it is an Island which at present depends upon other countries, not only for its groceries, wines, and liquors, and those articles of food which, wherever produced, have by habit become necessaries of civilized life, but for the very stocking of its daily markets. Hence the extent of its import trade with Venuezela, from whence it receives vegetables, live stock, dried meat, fish, &c., but which requires none of its produce in return. It is to be hoped that, as that country becomes politically more settled, its commercial relations with Trinidad, as a depôt from whence to supply the provinces lying opposite to it with European goods, will become more extended.

24. The great bulk of the manufactured goods introduced comes from the United Kingdom, but the importations from France are also to be classed under this head. The relations which have existed from an early time between this island and France have naturally engendered and kept up a taste for French goods, and it is no doubt from the same cause that many of these which reach other British Colonies through England are received here direct from France or from its Colonies of Martinique and Guadeloupe as its depôts. Twelve vessels, two British and ten foreign, cleared from Trinidad for France in 1858 with cargoes, ten having arrived direct from thence; a proportion, whatever may have been the relative money values of their inward and outward cargoes, far more favourable for the colony in this respect than in the case of any other country, excepting of course Great Britain, with which it has habitual trading intercourse.

25. The yearly importation of horses and mules from the United States is considerable; but, with this and a few other unimportant exceptions, food (including that for animals) and lumber, are the articles of supply drawn, and in large quantities, from the United States and the British North American possessions. Out of 108 American vessels that cleared from the Ports of the Island in 1858, no less than 67 were in ballast; 7 British and 15 foreign vessels cleared with cargoes for ports in the United States; 15 British only with cargoes for ports in British North America. Together they took with them, of the produce of the Island, no more than the following items: 366 tons of asphaltum, 670,000 lbs. of cocoa, 989,850 lbs. of sugar, 69,295 gallons of molasses, and 450 gallons of rum. The

immense amount of untilled land, however, in the Colony, which will gradually be brought under cultivation, under conditions different from those which have hitherto operated to confine the sugar-grower to certain markets for the disposal of his produce, appears to me to be indicative of future increase in the export trade with the United States.

26. The existence of this large quantity of virgin soil, available for extending the area of cultivation in proportion as labour and capital flow into the Island, tends to check, by rendering comparatively unnecessary, all improvement in the agricultural or manufacturing processes employed in the production of sugar. It answers better to open up new land than to endeavour to fertilize old; and it is only, therefore in a few localities, where facilities for the former do not exist, that any approach to high farming is apparent. It is questionable whether it is equally wise to rely upon the productiveness of the soil to compensate by quantity the inferiority of manufacture; and it is satisfactory to know that in many quarters greater attention is being paid to quality than has hitherto been the case. The extension of cultivation in 1858 took place principally on lands already attached to estates, or which had been purchased of the Crown in the previous year under the influence of the high prices for produce which then ruled, but few grants having been made during the year itself.

27. The Annual Statistical Return of the Keeper of the Royal Gaol, a copy of which is annexed, shows a diminution in the number of prisoners committed during 1858 as compared with 1857, but the difference is too small to allow of any favourable conclusions being based upon it. The Keeper terminates his answers to the questions submitted in the Blue Book returns by the general observation that the portion of the gaol set apart for female prisoners is inadequate to present wants. Plans and estimates have been prepared for remedying this defect, and a sum of money has been appropriated for the purpose; and I trust that before many months are over the additional accommodation required will have been amply provided. In the course of the year a proposition was made to the local government to receive at its convict depôt at the Irois Forest—an establishment subsidiary to the Royal Gaol—a portion of the criminals sentenced to hard labour at Barbadoes ; but it did not meet with the approval of the Council of Government.

28. It will be observed, in the return last referred to, that a large proportion of the committals to prison are of natives of neighbouring islands. Trinidad offers great inducements to voluntary immigration ; and of the large numbers of labourers who flock to it annually for employment during crop-time, or with the intention of adopting it as their home, many no doubt deserve to be classed among those who can best be spared from their own countries, and who leave them for that reason ; and this may account for the fact. At all events, it is evident that this immigration, useful and desirable as it is, adds to the heterogeneous elements of which the population of Trinidad is composed.

29. That the condition of the labouring classes is good, there can be no doubt. The large savings made by Indian immigrants, and carried back to their country after an industrial residence of only five years, have often been pointed to as an evidence of this; and in his Report attached hereto, and to which I have already adverted, the Agent General of Immigrants shows that the industrious Creole labourer, in point of fact, makes more than the Coolie, though his expenditure may be greater and he may save less. Whether employers are equally prosperous in their degree, is another question. My impression is, that among resident proprietors there exists a considerable amount of comfort, though, with a few exceptions, they cannot be called wealthy ; and that the position of the planting body generally is one of health and promise, though there are comparatively few estates in the Island which have reaped the advantage of great interests being at stake in their preservation and progress.

I have, &c.

His Grace the Duke of Newcastle, &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) R. W. KEATE.

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REPORT of AGENT GENERAL of IMMIGRANTS laid before Council on 21st April.

Immigration Office, 1st March 1859.

REPORT ON IMMIGRATION,

In continuation of Report, No. 27, *dated* 1*st June* 1858.

1. THERE is little in the following details different from those of the preceding year, unless it be the slight accession by arrivals to the sum of indentured labour, an accession which, however desirable in itself, by no means supplied the deficiency from expired indentures.

The arrivals in 1858, or rather the distribution, reached 1,650, while the indentures expired by time or purchase approached 1,800; many of the latter, however, took bounty, and in this manner added to the available stock of labour; but this again is partially counterbalanced by the return to India of upwards of 300 immigrants.

The departure of the latter might be looked on by some as a dead loss; but there appears now to be little doubt that the regular return of Coolies during the last six years, carrying with them earnings to the large amount detailed annually in these reports, is surely and steadily, though somewhat slowly, raising the reputation of this colony as a labour mart, in the estimation of the East Indian peasantry.

This is by no means a mere statement of opinion, but a fact borne out by the return of several immigrants last year at their own expense, and is doubly gratifying in the sense, that the experienced Coolie prefers the advantages of an industrial residence in the West Indies even to those offered by Mauritius, whose proximity to India has not only hitherto been held to be the cause of her superior attraction to the immigrant, but assigned as a reason also, why the existing shortness of transit should be still further facilitated by legislation in her favour.

Without descending to invidious comparisons between the West Indies generally and Mauritius in particular, it must strike even cursory attention that, however geographically near to India may be the position of Mauritius, she has taken care, in some respects at least, to place herself legislatively distant, more remote even than the West Indies. This will appear on contrasting their respective labour regulations.

The term of industrial residence in both is similar; but in the West Indies the immigrant is bound to make good, on the expiry of his contract, only the number of days during which he has wilfully absented himself from work, while in the Mauritius double the number of lost days is exacted.

In estimating lost days, the average may safely be taken at about 20 per cent. on the whole industrial term, or one year's labour lost on five years' residence. In the West Indies the Coolie would therefore have completed his contract in six years, while in the Mauritius such completion would require seven years. In the one he would, after six years, be free to take a bounty, varying according to circumstances, of from 2*l.* to 4*l.* sterling; in the other he would, after six years, enter upon a further year of labour under contract, without bounty; a difference to be easily appreciated by the calculating Coolie, when brought under his notice, as has no doubt been already done by our Indian agents.

2. Nearly all matters of interest connected with the immigration into this Colony have been freely entered into, whether as regards employer or employed, in the report which accompanied last year's abstract, as also in that of 1st June 1858, which gave a brief analysis of the five years' industrial residence in this Colony of immigrants, whether Indian or Chinese.

3. The mortality on board the Calcutta vessels as yet arrived for the season 1858—1859 has, with one exception, been somewhat lower than among the early arrivals in 1858; and it may be interesting to note here some of the conclusions as to the causes of mortality which increasing experience and investigation would seem thus far to warrant. Without, however, advancing any of these as more than mere opinion, still they may be looked upon as fair inferences from the facts presented, whether taken in isolation or occasionally contrasted with others.

4. It does not appear that a difference of tonnage, within very wide limits, influences the mortality; it is unnecessary here to advert to reported instances of French immigrant vessels from India to Martinique, carrying a passenger for every ton of measurement, and yet not losing more than one per cent. of the labourers embarked, because the stringency of their emigration regulations admit of no adult being shipped who is not in perfect health and under forty years of age. It will suffice to refer seriatim to the Calcutta ships which have lately arrived under similar circumstances of season, care, &c. The "Edith Moore," 1229 tons, 96 days out, lost 27 out of 401, while the loss on board the "Akbar," 819 tons, which immediately followed, 104 days out, was 36 out of 346. The deaths on board the "Akbar" were attributed by the master and surgeon superintendent to the condition in which many of the people were shipped, an opinion to some extent borne out by the fact that the mortality occurred principally among a certain proportion that had been rejected by the surgeon of the "Edith Moore."

In the "Themis," 800 tons burden, 76 days out, the loss was much smaller, 13 out of 376, and confined, according to the report of the surgeon superintendent, to those who had been embarked in a weak and emaciated state. While in the "Hanover," 819 tons burthen, the ship which immediately followed, the mortality rose to 54 out of 388, before reaching St. Helena, in 67 days, where, notwithstanding the advantages of a salubrious depôt and competent medical aid, it continued, nor finally ceased till the survivors were landed in Trinidad by the "Marmion," a fine ship of 913 tons, after a further loss of 23, and 9 sent to hospital. Yet, notwithstanding deaths thus exceeding 20 per cent., the remainder were, with few exceptions, landed in such temper and condition as showed that both their health and comfort had been carefully superintended. In most instances the mortality was confined to low class coolies, corroborating the common opinion, as far as it makes itself known here, that they

reach the depôt in a miserable state of antecedent exhaustion. Similar causes will ever produce similar results, as in the Irish exodus.

5. If we contrast the preceding statement with the condition in which the "Roman Emperor," 793 tons, 84 days out, arrived from Madras with only 3 deaths, (one of these being a suicide), on 382 embarked, and the remainder, except two, in excellent order, it will appear yet more clearly that success has no marked connexion with increase of tonnage. On the contrary, this is the same vessel which, in the previous year, from Calcutta to Demerara, lost more than one person daily, and landed the remainder for the most part fit tenants for the hospital. Yet, in the present voyage her success has been unequivocal, and her commander declares his belief that, with people embarked in equally good order, and with similar madical care, the ship could have carried another 100 men with a mortality under one per cent.

6. The same happy exemption from mortality attended the "Palmerston" and the "Hope," both from Madras. In the latter, the Coolies were 106 days on board previous to distribution, with only one death among 295 adults; hence it may be further inferred, that mere duration of voyage, even when prolonged considerably beyond the average, does not of itself exercise any necessarily pernicious influence on the health of immigrants.

7. Any allusion to the medical skill employed in the superintendence of the immigrants would be invidious, other than to say that, without exception, the surgeons discharged their duties not only with care, but with praiseworthy zeal; and in the instance of the "Hanover" and "Marmion," where the mortality was equal to the sum of that on board the other six ships, there is ample evidence to show that a high-class surgeon, of great experience, devoted himself unremittingly to the immigrants. The commanders of the above-mentioned vessels were also, in every instance, men in whom the confidence of the Indian agents appears to have been justly reposed, not only from their antecedents as seamen, but as otherwise fully imbued with those sentiments of humanity indispensable to the successful result of this commerce.

8. It has been more than once remarked in the course of these reports, that the chief mortality during the transit falls on the lower class Coolie; but it is also a fact, confirmed by daily experience, that this same class, when disembarked here in health, become not only docile, but hardy and industrious labourers. They constitute the class who, above all others, as agriculturists, earn the highest wages, and contribute most largely to deposits in the Savings Banks. They are consequently the most desirable immigrants for this Colony, if their importation could be effected unattended by the mortality which has been so much to be deplored of late; and that this can be done as easily from Calcutta as from Madras there can be little doubt, if the depôt selected by the agent be healthy, which the present one is not, and if each proposed immigrant be detained therein till such time as his actual health may warrant his favourable reception by the surgeon superintendent. If a man be unfit to pass his examination in a satisfactory manner, he should not be embarked on any plea whatever, as he must either die on the passage, or be landed unfit for labour, and then, whatever be his ties of relationship, his first step is to apply to the agent general for a return passage to India—alternatives equally discreditable, whether in a business or politico-moral point of view.

9. It is unnecessary to extend this very superficial analysis of one or two points connected with the mortality on board immigrant vessels from Calcutta, both because the subject has no doubt been by this time thoroughly examined elsewhere and exhausted by abler hands, and because its details arose from causes over which this Colony has hitherto exercised no control. It will be more to the purpose to ascertain how far the industry of the immigrants once landed has promoted the ends for which they were introduced, namely, the increase of the staple exports and their own welfare in connexion with the same. The sources from which information of this kind must be drawn are somewhat complex, and as the details themselves are relative, it is necessary that they should be examined in connexion. They have, therefore, been collected and tabulated in the following manner, viz.:—

The number of people resident on each estate, whether employed or not; the different classes into which they are naturally divided, the average amount of labour performed, and the average wages earned by each from the high paid superintendent to children on fractional wages inclusive.

The number of estates embraced in the present abstract of this synopsis is 140, and it represents the actual state of labour on the sugar plantations of this colony for the month of March 1858:—

——	People Resident. Number.	Total Day's Work.	Total Wages earned.	Monthly Average. Days.	Monthly Average. Wages.
			$ c.		$ c.
Coolies - - -	5,905	115,376	34,569 39	19·5	5 85
Trinidad Creoles - -	3,832	64,812	22,656 52	16·9	5 91
Immigrant Creoles -	4,041	71,162	25,341 91	17·6	6 27
Africans - - -	2,885	49,285	15,479 16	17·	5 36
Chinese - - -	439	7,588	1,875 33	17·2	4 27
Total - -	17,102	308,223	99,922 31	——	——

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10. This abstract may be considered as a tolerably correct index of the fixed labour required in this Colony last year for the production of a crop of nearly 40,000 hogsheads, and of the average amount of wages earned.

It is necessary, however, in estimating the total expense of the month in wages, to add about one-tenth more for jobbing and contract work, &c.

This species of labour may be now regarded as a somewhat stationary item in estates' expenditure; and although varying too much in different districts at the same time, or on individual properties at different times, to admit of precisely estimating the rate it really bears to the whole outlay, still the amount assumed may be taken as a fair approximation. By adding it, therefore, to the previous figures, the number of people of all classes and capabilities employed during the month of March 1858 was a trifle under 19,000, and their wages for the same period amounted to $ 110,000. These figures apply to sugar estates alone, and are not intended to foster the speculative wants of this community, but to establish on incontrovertible foundation, that although the supply of labour is inadequate to meet its agricultural necessities, the results are such as may well stimulate the cane-growers to increase that supply by every legitimate means.

11. The month of March has been selected as a basis for the preceding abstract, not as furnishing a correct criterion of the amount of monthly labour required during twelve months; but as being the busiest month in the season, it gives the maximum of labour then resident, whether employed or not. A similar return for the months of August and September presents a widely different aspect, save under the headings of indentured labour, as the other classes have by that time quitted the estates for more congenial pursuits, to return perhaps with the recurring season, or to be replaced by others. Those of them who do remain, with the exception of superintendents or skilled labour, do not as a rule work with any great regularity during the wet season. Indeed the annual migration from the other islands into this wears something of the settled form of that from Ireland into England during harvest, and withal bears a steadily increasing ratio to the numbers introduced from India; that is, the increasing development of the resources of this Colony attracts yearly an increasing amount of Creole labour which, although desultory in character, is yet indispensible to reaping the crop, which has been grown and ripened under the more continuous labour of the Asiatic.

12. Whatever view be taken of the statement tabulated above, it merits serious attention from all connected with the Colony. The figures not only open up a field of inquiry for the politician and capitalist, but furnish a basis for their calculations, alike free from the midst of general assertion and sufficiently extended to secure the minimum of error on the points embraced.

A glance at the comparative numbers employed, and the amounts they earn, prompts many a curious question, while it answers others that have long been the stalking horses of adverse interests.

The crop during the last twenty years has more than doubled in weight, but clearly not owing to the exertions of the original labourers, as their representatives do not number one-fourth of those now employed on estates' work; and what must be doubly gratifying to the benevolent classes in the mother country, and allay their anxiety lest the emancipated peasantry be exposed to ruinous competition from underpaid Indians, are the facts shewn in the table, that the Coolie, working less than 20 days per month, earns 1*l.* 4*s.* 4½*d.*, while the native Creole who does work 17 days per month earns a few pence more; that the labour in neither case is protracted, underpaid, nor unsuited to the people, may be further inferred from the fact that strangers who flock down from the other islands, and are employed in even larger numbers than the natives of this Colony, average 18 days labour per month, and earn a still higher rate of wages, viz.: 1*l.* 6*s.* 2½*d.*

13. The attraction is not merely the demand actually existing for labour, but the punctuality of payment. To the immigrant this payment is guaranteed by law monthly or fortnightly, a system which must of course be extended to all, or the others would decline work. As it is, the time lost at present, discouraging to those who desire the welfare of the Colony, were the Creole population of both denominations (native and introduced) now engaged in the manufacture of sugar to work 25 days per month instead of 17 days, the increase would represent an addition of 4,000 immigrants, or one-fifth to the labour force of the Colony; and as they work for larger amounts than the Asiatics, this would represent at least 9,000 hogsheads additional to the general crop, and a net increase of $24,000 per month during crop season to themselves.

In their case it is not so much the small amount of labour which employers complain of; it is the irregularity of its distribution. Were the 17 days' average labour per month consecutive, or to accrue on previously determined periods, the employer could arrange his other labour in such a manner as to meet this contingency, and secure during its continuance those unbroken days of work which are essential to the security of the crop; but this he cannot do, and on short-handed estates the absence of three or four labourers, now on one day and then on another, stops the mill, and at the same time the manufacture of as many hogsheads of sugar, which may be set down as lost for the season. There appears at present but one method of escaping from this difficulty, and that is, such a supply of continuous contract labour as can enable each estate to make a certain amount of sugar daily, independent of all contingent labour, and then to employ the contingent labour to increase that amount. But the amount of indentured labour is at present by no means sufficient to ensure this desideratum, and during 1858 the crop was barely saved by the accession of 1,000 adult Indians, and a numerous body of Creole volunteers from the other islands, amounting to more than 2,300.

14. In any comparison drawn between the relative amounts of labour as represented in the preceding columns, it must be recollected that the physical difference is marked between the Indian immigrant and the Creole, whether native or from the other West Indian islands.

The former are generally unfit for the more arduous forms of labour during the first year of residence, and their numbers are more than half made up of women and children under ten years of age, unaccustomed to previous field work, while the latter are almost entirely adults in their prime,

enured to the hoe from childhood, and, physically speaking, infinitely superior to the others; but they are lamentably deficient in that thoughtful providence which induces the weakly Indian to toil continuously for the competence which his own experience and the example of others assure him is the certain result of a steady industrial residence. Is it too much to expect ultimately from the natives of these islands similar habits of forethought? I think not; the Creole has abundant energy, bodily strength, and a cheerful nature, and although it may take long to train these qualities into what Europeans consider a pattern husbandman, the continued influence of the schools now happily everywhere opened in this island, will effect for him, perhaps, as much as time and opportunity have done for either Celt or Saxon.

The native population of the colony is fortunately so small that the arms of advancing civilization cannot fail to enclose the laggards, and force them along the paths of industry to such extent at least as will make them contribute their proper share to the general progress of the colony and their own material well-being. In the meanwhile, till such happy issues be realized, the planter will do wisely to depend on imported labour, in such quantity as he can afford, and under such terms as the Imperial Legislature may concede.

To secure the sanction of the Crown to his undertakings in this line, he will not find it sufficient to point to the wages earned by the Indian or Chinese immigrant,—to the sums acquired by them and remitted to their homes. He must point to higher results; the number of lawless heathens who have become orderly Christians of one denomination or another, and show how far, in his pursuit after wealth attained, or expected to be attained through the labour of the imported Indian, he has in turn contributed to such institutions as the Orphan Home and Indian Training School.

In the Indian Training School at Tacarigua there are now upwards of 50 orphans, children whose parents died at sea during the immigration of the last years.

They are without exception of the lowest class of Indians, a circumstance which appears now to be pretty well accounted for, by the fact that the mortality during the voyage is, with few exceptions, confined to that class whose debilitated frames sink easily under influences little felt by the better nurtured.

The children at the Training School are for the most part too closely bordering on infancy to effect much in an industrial point of view; but they are healthy, happy, and well cared for, and promise at no distant date to yield a valuable contingent to the labour of their foster colony.

There has been also in operation for some time on the Lothian's estate, in Savannah Grande, a school for Indian children, a private enterprise, which so far has been attended with the best results, and will no doubt shortly develop itself into a somewhat kindred institution to that already mentioned in Tacarigua.

16. The abstract of the yearly returns for 1858, which accompanies this report, is on the whole satisfactory. The mortality, including 68 who died in hospital and in gaol, amounts to 162; or deducting 8 already entered in the estates returns, and repeated in that of the hospital to 154, which, on 9,496 souls, gives 1·7, coinciding nearly with the death-rate of last year, and as then predominating among the newly arrived.

The absconded immigrants on the same number were 75=0·8 nearly per cent.; this figure does not represent the number actually absent from estates at the present moment, but all those who have been returned as such at different periods of the year. Many of these have long since resumed their engagements, and some have died in hospital, the last resort of the absentee.

Of indigent and incapable from blindness or other afflictions, the number is as yet too small to become the subject of special remark, not more than six having been sent to me, with medical certificates of incapacity, from their employers during the past year. This is accounted for partly by the mutual charity of the Hindoos towards the indigent, and partly by the scarcity of labour which induces the employers to utilize every available hand, however ineffective.

This satisfactory state, however, cannot be expected to last long, under the continued introduction of large bodies of strangers, and it will be advisable to lay down in time such regulations for the Indian Asylum as may ensure its becoming a retreat for the inefficient, but not a refuge for the idle.

In the Gaol return, there has been great improvement, notwithstanding the increased number of immigrants. The number of committals has been, for the year 1858, 213 on a total population of 9,500, or 22 per cent.; of these, 124 were for breach of contract, and 89 for other offences.

The committals in 1857 were 402, *i.e.* 284 breach of contract, and 118 other offences.

In the breach of contract gaol class, many figure repeatedly, and thus diminish the number of individuals incarcerated.

The keeper of the Royal Gaol further informs me, that since the commencement of this year commitments have been rare under the contract ordinance,—a fact much to the credit of the immigrant.

In the industrial tables already submitted, one circumstance seems surprising, and calls for explanation, viz., the low standing of the Chinese both as to industry and earnings.

Their status at the time is accounted for by the circumstances that their five years' industrial residence for the most part terminated in March and April, and having no curb of indorsation for lost time to check their movements, they were very unsettled. Since their contract expired, numbers have taken voluntary engagements on large bounties, as high even as 5*l.* for the year; but the generality are either shopkeeping or gardening on their own account. This last may appear to diminish the amount of available labour on estates in their vicinity; but the indirect result is to increase the general supply, by lowering the price of provisions, which here take precedence of the wants of life.

The Chinese, as a body, are fast subsiding into the general mass of the population, and adopting their habits.

In comparing the sum of immigrants entered in the estates' returns with the numbers entered in tables C. and D., a marked discrepancy appears, and this no doubt must exist till some sharper supervision be exercised over the estates' quarterly returns.

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C. and D. are returns taken from the books of this office, and differ principally from the quarterly returns in this, that the latter are careless in exactly entering the numbers of non-indentured and children.

But the employers of immigrants should bear in mind that, without their willing and precise co-operation in all matters relating to immigration, it will be impossible to carry out in a satisfactory manner the increasing duties of this office without introducing a domiciliary scrutiny foreign to the habits and tastes of Englishmen.

17. The understanding between the employer and employed is, as might be expected in situations of mutual dependency, good, and no case of breach of contract has been brought under my notice during the past year, in which the plaintiff was an immigrant; breach of contract, however, on the part of the immigrant, occurs occasionally; but, as has been seen from the Gaol return, such cases are now rarer than formerly. The working of the Immigration Ordinance is good, except in those particulars to which I have already had the honour of referring in 1856, 1857, and 1858. One clause is of so much importance, and the difficulty of carrying it out is increasing so rapidly, that I take the liberty of again introducing the remarks then made (in 1857):—

Clause xxxii. of Ordinance No. 24, of 1854.—As it stands at present, its working gives an amount of labour to the Immigration Office not compensated by any resulting advantage.

By this clause the indentured immigrant is allowed by law to lose six days in each year; but if any greater number be lost, they may, at the request of the employer, be indorsed on his contract, and he is then bound to work an equal number of days before his indenture be deemed to be completed.

The difficulty here is not the mere indorsation, but to know when it has terminated, or is likely to terminate.

When an indenture has been indorsed for say 30 days, the probability is, that three or even six months elapse before these lost days have been worked out, and the payment of the fee due on the renewal of the indenture is proportionately retarded, besides continued and unpleasant discussion between the immigrant and his master, as to the exact amount of work repaid. Add to this, inquiries from other planters, who wish to employ the Coolie on expiry of his existing contract, and these inquiries have all to be answered.

The same difficulties recur at the termination of the fourth and fifth years' contract, so that an idle Coolie runs a chance of never terminating his industrial residence.

The method which appears to me the best calculated to remedy this state of things and act as a spur to the idle, while it would prove an encouragement to the industrious, is to increase the number of days which a Coolie might lose without being obliged to return them, from 6 days to 20, and permit the man who had not exceeded that number, either to select another master or to purchase the balance of his time at the close of his third year; when, however, the loss of time was in excess of 20 days annually, to consider in such cases the indenture as extended for the remainder of the period of industrial residence, and then at the close of the fifth year to allow the immigrant, at his own option, either to pay back the lost time to his employer, in kind or in money, at a fixed rate; no money payments to be allowed where the lost time had been spent in gaol under a magistrate's conviction. I think that an arrangement of this nature would benefit the Coolie, increasing his steadiness, and consequently his wealth, whilst it would effectually discourage any underhand practices among employers to influence their neighbour's men. To ensure its working properly, each immigrant should be furnished with a labour-book, in which on pay day should be entered each day he had worked, and the rate earned, and the total number of days in writing, signed by the book-keeper. This would prevent disputes regarding the amount of time lost; and in it also the immigrant desirous of giving notice to leave or purchase time, could have the same entered by the nearest magistrate or public officer, so as certainly to meet his employer's eye, and terminate those unpleasant cases in which the immigrant asserts he has given due notice, and is contradicted by the employer.

The labour-book would in this last case further subserve an important point. It would preclude the necessity of the immigrant leaving distant estates to wait on the agent general to give notice of intention to leave or to purchase remaining time, a proceeding in which much time is lost, valuable alike to employer and employed.

18. The following example of the working of clause xxxii. 24, 1854, indicates the immediate necessity of well digested legislative interference. In 1857 about 1200 Indian immigrants arrived in this colony, and were indented to different estates for a term of three years; that term will consequently expire in 1860, when the whole machinery of indorsation will be called into play on a large scale. The first step will be, the employers declining to pay the indenture fees, viz. 2,400*l.*; and instead thereof proffering the indentures to be endorsed for periods varying in every case, but, considering the time generally lost by the immigrant during the first year, each may average about 180 days.

In every instance previous to indorsation the quarterly returns of the estates to which these immigrants were indentured, must be carefully checked with the claims of the employers for the whole preceding period of three years, and the indorsation then drawn.

The above example is sufficient to shew the impracticability of working the present Ordinance without adapting it somewhat to altered circumstances.

The whole number of people now under indenture is at least 7000, and the application of the indorsation clause to all, or even the majority of these, would require a central machinery extremely unwieldy, and of very uncertain result.

Again, the most difficult point connected with the indorsation clause as already mentioned, is to ascertain when the extended time has been worked out by the immigrant. It appears to me that in this and some other particulars which affect the labourer, a minute system of local surveillance is called for; it may be elaborate and it must be expensive; but it is essential to the prosperity of the country, that in every instance of social labour contracts, the employer must yield in time money and well-conducted supervision, an equivalent for the restrictions imposed on the labourer by his contract.

This report does not profess to examine how far any particular scheme might desirably replace the present regulations in the points under remark, but is intended to show that a system which in 1854 was considered equal to the exigencies of the moment, is no longer capable of being applied successfully to immigration, when the number under indenture in any one of the three counties of St. George, Caroni, and Victoria is greater than the then contract labour of the whole Colony. If this be the case at present, what what will be the result in even two years, with population increasing at its present rate, and the systems of tramways and rails becoming developed.

The initial effects of both during the last year are evident; cane fields are invading the great lagoon, and creeping up the valley of the Guaracara; they are gradually skirting the base of the Montserrat, and lining the banks of the Caroni.

The cocoa planters from Diego Martin to the Cabaceras of Arima and Guanapo are calling for labour. And it must not be forgotten, that other districts, such as Mayaro, whose ruin, when inhabited by a newly emancipated peasantry, was due to the unusual abundance of fish, game, and cocoa nuts, to the facility of living without labour, will revive. With the power of importing a class of labourers who will work eagerly and continuously for wages even while drawing their food unpaid from the sea and forest, the scene will change, not with the slow struggling into life of other districts, but at a bound; the moment labour can be procured by those who are still interested in the Bande l'Est, it will be invested at once in redeeming that Indian paradise from wild vegetation, and another branch will be added to the immigration department, where the surveillance must be either local or nominal.

In such re-settlements the contracts on bounty will play a conspicuous part.

These contracts, entered into by old immigrants who have terminated their industrial residence, and are consequently free to dispose of their labour when and where they please, should, I conceive, be carried out by some properly constituted local authority, as in England, because it is not only desirable that the Immigration Office should be in this manner relieved from a daily increasing burden, but that Indian settlers, who, after an apprenticeship served, select the Colony for a home either permanently or for a term of years, should in the matter of contracts enjoy most fully the freest institutions. The names and numbers of this class could be easily transmitted from distant districts, without requiring either personal attendance or intermediate agency at head quarters.

Finally, there is another question for consideration which I approach with diffidence, and merely indicate, as at no distant period it must occupy the attention of the Legislature; it is a question of paramount importance in connection with immigration, namely, the collection of the revenue. How far may the present machinery be depended on for securely drawing, in the ensuing year, from such a variety of sources, and checking correctly, before delivery into the Treasury, a sum of between 30,000*l.* and 40,000*l.* sterling, and sanctioning the repayment of a probably larger amount?

I have, &c.

HENRY MITCHELL,
Agent-General of Immigrants.

C.

STATISTICS of IMMIGRANTS, 31st December 1857.

Number of Immigrants (Indian) working under indentures on estates who have not completed a residence of five years in the colony	3,931
Number of Indian immigrants who have received certificates of industrial residence	1,542
Number of Indian immigrants working on estates under contract, who have completed an industrial residence of five years	1,307
Number of indented and unindented Chinese immigrants	662
Boys, 326; Girls, 258 (Indian)	584
Cape de Verd immigrants (indented)	154
Orphan Asylum	30
Total	8,210

D.

STATISTICS of IMMIGRANTS, 31st December 1858.

Number of Indian immigrants working under indentures on estates who have not completed a residence of five years in the colony	4,894
Number of Indian immigrants who have received certificates of industrial residence, and are not under contract	1,612
Number of Indian immigrants working on estates under contract who have received certificates of industrial residence	1,422
Number of unindented Chinese immigrants	630
Boys, 425; Girls, 319 (Indian)	744
Cape de Verd immigrants (indented)	147
Orphan Asylum	43
Total	9,492

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COUNTY OF	Number indented in 1857.			Number indented in 1858.					Number unindented in 1857.					Number unindented in 1858.						
	Men.	Women.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Total.	Minus.	Plus.	Men.	Women.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Minus.	Plus.
St. George - - -	1,110	260	1,370	979	331	1,310	60	—	144	22	98	79	343	207	43	108	92	430	—	107
Caroni - - -	1,180	195	1,375	1,027	299	1,326	49	—	26	7	49	30	112	155	38	106	59	358	—	246
Victoria - - -	1,794	337	2,131	1,614	498	2,142	—	11	136	35	145	128	444	387	54	130	102	673	—	229
St. Patrick - - -	368	85	453	363	98	461	—	8	26	8	34	21	89	77	26	20	19	142	—	53
Total - - -	4,452	877	5,329	4,013	1,226	5,239	90	—	332	72	326	258	988	826	161	364	272	1,623	—	635
	—	—	—	133	52	185	—	185	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	61	47	108	—	108
Total -	4,452	877	5,329	4,146	1,278	5,424	—	95	332	72	326	258	988	826	161	425	319	1,731	—	743

Number of Deaths during the Year 1858.

Coolies - - - - - - - - -	146	
Chinese - - - - - - - -	16	
		162

Committed to Gaol in 1857.

Breech of Contract - - - - - - - -	284	
Other Offences - - - - - - - -	118	
		402

Committed to Gaol in 1858.

Breach of Contract - - - - - - - -	124	
Other Offences - - - - - - - -	89	
		213
Number Immigrants absconded - - - - - -	75	

Returned Immigrants to Calcutta, 1858.

241 Men. 54 Women. 32 Boys. 23 Girls. 7 Infants. Total, 357.

Immigrants received in 1858.

1,094 Men. 585 Women. 192 Boys. 135 Girls. 67 Infants. Total, 2,073.

Encl. 2. in No. 5.

Enclosure 2. in No. 5.

REPORT by the INSPECTOR of SCHOOLS on the subject of EDUCATION in the COLONY for the Year 1858.

To the Honorable the Colonial Secretary.

March 1st, 1859.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to submit to the consideration of his Excellency the Governor the following report on the subject of education in this Colony for the year 1858. At the end of the year there were existing 27 ward schools, at the places and under the masters mentioned in the schedule hereto The respective salaries of these schoolmasters and the attendance of pupils at their schools annexed at the end of the year are also specified in this schedule.

I find that the attendance of pupils at these schools during the four quarters of the year has been as follows:—

The quarter ending 31st of March at 25 ward schools the general attendance or number on the rolls was - - - - - - - -	1,654	
The average daily attendance - - - - - - - -		1,033
The quarter ending the 30th June at 26 ward schools the general attendance was - - - - - - - - -	1,530	
The average daily attendance - - - - - - - -		969
The quarter ending the 30th September at 26 ward schools the general attendance was - - - - - - - - -	1,775	
The average daily attendance - - - - - - - -		959
The quarter ending 31st December at 27 ward schools the general attendance was - - - - - - - - -	1,729	
The average daily attendance - - - - - - - -	979	
This will give an average number on the rolls at 26 ward schools of - -		1,684
With an average daily attendance of - - - - - -		985

The average daily attendance at each school will therefore be 37, and the proportion of actual attendance to the number of pupils on the rolls will be as 37 to 64.

Among the 1,684 children attending these schools 427 are girls, or nearly one-fourth. The average age of these children is 10 years.

Of these children 398 are of the Church of England, 1,163 are of the Church of Rome, 83 of other religious denominations, and 35 unaccounted for.

Of these 1,684, 204 are in the alphabet, 642 are reading and spelling in the First Book of Lessons and sequels to the Second Book, 193 in the Third, and 112 in the Fourth and Fifth Books. 571 are writing on slates, 627 on paper; 839 are learning geography, 874 arithmetic, and 341 grammar. Singing by the ear is generally taught throughout the schools.

The proficiency in these various subjects may be best ascertained by classifying the schools under three heads. In the first I would place the following schools:—1, Tacarigua; 2, Mission Savannah Grande; 3, Diego Martin; 4, St. Joseph; 5, Arouca; 6, Mayaro; 7, Savonetta; 8, Couva ;9, Cedros; 10, St. Magdelain; and 11, Victoria, South Naparima; 12, St. Joseph, North Naparima; 13, Guapo.

In the second place I would place the following schools:—1, North Savannah Grande; 2, Caura; 3, Santa Cruz; 4, La Brea; 5, Arima; 6, Chaguanas; 7, Maraval; 8, Maraccas; 9, St. Juans; and in the last Point a Pierre, Carenage, Oropouche, and Ramberts' Village, South Naparima.

In the first 13 the reading and spelling, geography, writing, and arithmetic will be found to be good.

In the next 10 these subjects have been acquired by the pupils fairly, and in the last four schools the children have not made similar progress, owing to circumstances generally, over which the masters have not had any or but little control, with the exception of the school at Ramberts' village, where the master's efforts have not been such as they ought to have been.

This classification is not made with reference to the qualifications and exertions of the teachers, but with reference to the proficiency of the scholars, because there are several circumstances which operate in different localities to impede the successful working of the schoolmasters. For instance, in several places the children come to school not understanding a word of English, and little progress can be made with such children until they are taught to understand the only language the master is allowed to use. In other localities the attendance of the children is irregular, offering an obstacle in this way to the successful efforts of the teacher, so that the progress of the children in the various branches of learning taught them does not afford in very case a fair criterion by which to judge of the qualities of the teacher.

In the first exodus of teachers a basis of classification was adopted, derived chiefly from the amount of knowledge possessed by them. It was soon seen that there was something of greater importance to constitute a good schoolmaster than mere learning, and in several cases those who were the most deficient in scientific knowledge became by means of other qualities the best masters. This is more apparent when we consider that the branches of knowledge taught to our population is of an elementary character.

Another circumstance which has forced itself upon our attention has been the capacity of the wards of the Colony severally to provide funds for the establishment of schools and the maintenance of teachers. In the distribution of masters throughout the Colony this has been a necessary element of consideration, particularly when we consider the great disparity of the pecuniary means of the wards on account of the concentration of valuable properties in certain localities.

Instead, therefore, of sending a master to a particular ward with a fixed salary, proportioned to the qualities of the master, a necessity has existed of considering first of all the means of the ward, and sending to that ward a master whose salary may not be in excess of the means of the ward. The removal of masters has also been in accordance with the same principle, because, should the ward where a master has acquitted himself so successfully as to be entitled to promotion not be in a position to pay an increase of salary, or any other circumstance prevent such an increase, the only alternative has been to remove such a master to a richer ward where an increase of emolument may reward his exertions. In one or two cases a mere removal to a different locality, without any increase of salary or even at a diminution thereof, has been adopted by a master as an improvement of position.

Attendance.—The average daily attendance of the pupils at the ward schools in proportion to the number on the rolls is small, and I fear this irregularity of attendance is an evil which it is difficult if not impossible to cure, as inseparable from our present state of society.

The evil may be traced to the following causes:—1. The parents and guardians of the children are not fully alive to the advantages of education; as a consequence, they not unfrequently keep the children at home, particularly the elder ones, to assist in domestic occupations, and at times in the cultivation of land. 2. Some of the children reside at considerable distances from the schools, others are but scantily provided with clothes, and are kept at home sometimes on that account. 3. Others, again, who are more advanced in years, resort to the estates during crop time to work for wages.

It will be seen that the majority of the children attending school are in the elementary books. Many of them leave school before they have advanced to the Fourth and Fifth Books, and a relative position in the other branches of learning. Instead of the disposition being to withdraw from work for the purpose of acquiring school learning the tendency is the other way, to leave school to look for work. Nor is there the remotest prospect of the knowledge acquired at school have the effect of puffing them up in their own conceit, or withdrawing them from working for wages.

Undoubtedly, if a labourer find it more to his advantage to cultivate a piece of land of his own he will do so; or if he can acquire a trade as a mechanic, provided he is active and intelligent, he may better his condition in this way. This is a natural disposition of the labourer everywhere, but is exceptional, because the majority of labourers, here as elsewhere, do not get beyond the position of day labourers working for wages which they expend in their daily wants.

It appears by the return of the masters that among the children attending the ward schools, 795 are the children of labourers on estates, including in this category the children of those, who having little estates or pieces of land, devote their labour to the cultivation of them.

It will seen, also, that the proportion of girls to boys attending the ward schools is small, being not quite a fourth.

As the ward schools are all conducted by male teachers, some disinclination may be felt by parents to send their girls to school on this account. At the same time girls are more frequently than boys detained at home to assist in domestic occupations.

Some good reasons are given by Mr. Stowe for educating both boys and girls together in the same school. These reasons may apply more appropriately to the state of society at home, than in our country districts here, where boys and girls have to come and go some distance to and from school

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when they are not subject to the supervision of either parents or teacher. However this may be, the wards cannot afford to uphold separate schools for the sexes, and no pressing necessity exists for the revision of the present mixed character of the ward schools.

Reading and Spelling.—In referring to the proficiency of the pupils of the school as before given, it may be stated that those in the Fourth and Fifth Books read and spell with ease and fluency. Those in the Third Book can read and spell very fairly even difficult words. Those in the sequel to the Second Book can read and spell words of two syllables with accuracy, while those in the Second Book can read and spell words of one and two syllables.

The teaching of reading in these schools is a work of patience and difficulty. The children come to school in a state generally of great ignorance. They attend irregularly, and not unfrequently, speak nothing but the patois or Creole French, a language to which the lower orders take readily, as easily accommodating itself to the expression of their thoughts. It is undoubtedly susceptible of definite grammatical arrangement, and expresses with ease and accuracy the ordinary every day ideas of life; but from the habit the people have got into of speaking it a difficulty is on this account, thrown in the way of the schoolmaster.

Geography.—This is a subject the children take to readily, and in which they generally show great proficiency. It is chiefly an exercise of the memory assisted by having the lessons pictured out to them on the maps. It is thus level to the capacity of all the children soon after entering the school without the necessity of there being a previous foundation laid by advancement in other departments. Some of the more advanced pupils also answer questions readily in astronomical geography.

Arithmetic.—This is a subject which the children are not so apt in learning as geography, because it is a subject of a more abstract character, requiring a greater exercise of intellect. Children of educated persons generally come to school knowing something of arithmetic, or calculation which has been insensibly and gradually taught them at home, but the children who attend the ward schools come to school generally with minds totally blank in this respect, and are therefore not so easily taught this as those who have had the opportunities of a previous initiation under the parents' roof. The masters have to exercise patience and perseverance in teaching this subject to the children.

Grammar.—I am not desirous of encouraging the masters in teaching much of the technicalities of grammar at the ward schools. It is quite sufficient if the children are able to distinguish the parts of speech in a sentence and understand the relation they bear to each other in its construction without going minutely into moods and tenses, cases and number, or distinguishing the various artificial sub-divisions of the subject. At times a master will take pleasure in teaching the more advanced pupils the technical grammatical terms, which they repeat more by memory than in unison with the understanding. The time thus employed would be better employed in arithmetic, reading, spelling, and writing.

Memory.—The old system of exercising the memory principally, instead of the understanding, is quite exploded in our system of teaching. There are certain subjects, such as the multiplication and the other tables, which must necessarily be impressed on the mind through the memory. But with this and such like exceptions a child is made to understand everything he learns, for which purpose neither set questions nor answers are resorted to, but the child is made to show his knowledge of a subject by answers given in his own terms to questions varied in language each time they are put by the master. There is one master who carries the exercise of the mere memory rather too far, but I have not interfered with him, because as he takes a deep interest in the welfare and is successful in the teaching of his school, I would rather overlook an inconvenience of this sort, than interfere with his ideas of the mode of conducting a school.

Monitors.—A good deal of discussion took place at one time in England with respect to the plan of assisting in carrying on a school by means of monitors. The discussion acquired a magnitude at one time caused more by its assuming a religious type, than from any intrinsic circumstances connected with the case.

The system was adopted here at the Model School, but was superseded by the better plan of resorting to the assistance of the normal students, six of whom receive small stipends from the Government. The difficulty experienced at the Model School in resorting to the assistance of monitors was this, that when boys well advanced in their learning and of good behaviour were found fit to act as monitors, they soon left the school in consequence of finding it more to their advantage to look for profitable employment elsewhere. We were never able to secure the services of a monitor for any length of time. And in looking to boys of an inferior class, those only could be found who were incompetent to teach, and required as much looking after as the boys they were called upon to teach. The masters of the ward schools are obliged to resort to the assistance of monitors as a matter of necessity, having no assistants or pupil teachers; accordingly the more advanced pupils, and those of them who are the best behaved, are put in charge of the lower classes, to teach them the alphabet and reading in the First Book, and other simple matters, while the master is attending to the higher classes. If the master's business be one requiring science or skill, or is to be carried on according to certain fixed principles, then it is better that children should be taught by trained masters or pupil-teachers, and not by inexperienced monitors, and the latter can be resorted to only in cases of necessity, as in our ward schools, where the instruction is of an elementary character and the funds are insufficient to provide more than one paid teacher.

Religious Instruction.—An attempt was made during the year to obtain from the clergy returns of the number of children attending on them for religious instruction and other particulars on the subject, in terms of the 20th Clause of the Rules relating to the Primary Ward Schools, but without success. Printed forms were circulated through the masters to the children, for the purpose of being filled up by the clergy and returned by them to the masters, but in the generality of cases the clergy have failed to fill in these returns. The schoolmasters are therefore driven to the necessity of obtaining information as to the religious instruction afforded to the children from other sources in the best way they can. According to the returns of the schoolmasters, religious instruction is given to the children by the clergy in the districts where there are resident clergymen, on the Wednesdays, or Saturdays, or Sundays, and at times on two or all of these days, for periods each day extending from one to five

hours. In Port of Spain and San Fernando the means of religious instruction are also provided by the clergy, but the same irregularity of attendance here manifests itself as in the schools.

I may state that during the year I received from the masters of the ward schools satisfactory certificates signed by the clergymen of the respective districts testifying to the regularity of the attendance of the masters at Divine Service on Sundays.

School Books, &c.—The schools are supplied with books, maps, and slates of the same kind as those used in the National Schools in Ireland. These are imported by the Government, a stock being kept up at the Model School, and are supplied to the several wards at prime cost, with an addition of 25 per cent. to cover freight and other incidental expenses. These books and materials are sold by the booksellers in London and Dublin at a very cheap rate.

School Houses.—The ward school houses and residences of the masters are in some cases ill-adapted for the purpose; the best, however, that can be procured in localities not always well situated with respect to population. These defects can be corrected only in detail, considering the means of the wards, and where these are deficient, by a loan from the general funds of the Colony, to be returned by instalments from the funds of the wards, towards which the rent at present paid would go a considerable way. The erection of proper school houses would not only be a saving in the end, but would afford better accommodation for the pupils, and allow of the fitting up of a gallery in each school room for simultaneous teaching and training, a desideratum in every school of a popular character.

New Schools.—In the course of the year three new primary ward schools have been established, one at Maraval, another at Gasparillo Point a Pierre, and the third at Erin.

Borough Council School, San Fernando.—The average number of pupils on the rolls of this school during the year was, Boys - - - - - - - - 100

Girls - - - - - - - - 24

Total - - - 124

Of whom 48 are members of the Church of England and 54 members of the Church of Rome, 12 Wesleyans, and 10 Presbyterians.

The average daily attendance was 84. The pupils were divided into four primary classes, of whom 42 in the first class read in the First and Second Books of Lessons; 40 in the second class read in the First and Second Sequel to the Second Book, and wrote on paper. Thirty in the third class read in the Third Book, wrote by dictation simple sentences, cyphered as far as the compound rules, were taught the map of the world, and were learning by memory the rules of grammar. Twelve in the fourth class read in the Fourth Book, wrote by dictation more difficult passages, were in arithmetic as far as practice, parsed, and were taught the geography of the quarters of the globe, particularly that of Great Britain and Ireland, Natural History, and English History. Of the 42 pupils who wrote on paper by dictation, about a third could do so fairly. The master, Mr. Proctor, is indefatigable and an able teacher. He has been trained at the Normal School, where he at one time acted as assistant master. With the exception of his wife, who is allowed a moderate salary by the Borough Council for attending to the junior children, he has the whole burthen of carrying on the school with the imperfect assistance of monitors.

The children at this school are required to pay for their schooling fees every week ranging from 5 to 20 cents., according to the subjects taught. I have, on a former occasion, made a report on this school, alluding to the illegality of exacting any payment from the children attending it.

The Borough Council of San Fernando have hitherto failed to place this school under the rules framed by the Board of Education for the purpose, nor has any infant school been yet established by this Council in obedience to the 61st clause of the Ordinance "For the Regulation of Municipal "Corporations in this Island."

Borough Council Boys' School, Port of Spain.—I have set forth in a tabulated form in the schedule hereto annexed, the classification and other particulars relating to this school.

This school is now carried on in obedience to rules framed by the Board of Education, and latterly it has been considerably improved not only on account of the influence of these rules, but also in consequence of the Borough Council showing an interest in its welfare. Many of the children at this school are of an inferior class, not coming to school with shoes or proper clothing. On first entering a good many of them show bad propensities and great ignorance. It is conducted by a master, with an assistant and monitors, to the latter of whom a small pecuniary allowance is made.

Taking all circumstances into consideration the progress of this school is very fair. The discipline is perhaps not sufficiently rigid, but the superintendent is attentive to his duties, and has to deal with stubborn, ignorant, and ill-disposed boys as many of the pupils are.

Borough Council Girls' School, Port of Spain.—The attendance at this school is small, being about 20. The school itself is limited in its sphere of usefulness.

Female Model School, Port of Spain.

The average number of children on the rolls of this school during the year was - 140

And the average daily attendance - - - - - - - 111

It is carried on under the superintendence and teaching of Mrs. Alcock, and by five pupil-teachers, to whom are allowed stipends ranging from 10*l.* to 30*l.* a year.

The children of those who pay no ward rates are charged fifty cents. per month for schooling, to others the school is free.

The classification and proficiency of the pupils for the year are set forth in the schedule hereto annexed. The children are respectively well up in the subjects set opposite their classes.

I doubt if there can be a better school than this for the middling and lower classes, such as attend it.

The discipline, order, neatness, and cleanliness of the children are remarkable, although a good many of the girls when they first enter the school are rude, uncouth, ill-mannered, and ignorant.

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The mistress has never yet resorted to corporal punishment, but subdues the wild dispositions of the children by mildness, firmness, and watchfulness, and by appealing to the sense of propriety inherent in all minds. Two hours each day are devoted to needlework, the profits of which remain with the children.

The singing, also, is very good.

The pupil-teachers are ready, should any opportunities occur, of taking upon themselves the charge of separate schools, for which they are well qualified.

Normal School and Boys' Model School.—The rules for the Normal School were revised and modified during the year by the Board of Education. There were at the end of the year thirteen students attending the Normal School, to six of whom, in consideration of their assisting at the Model School, allowances were made ranging from 20*l.* to 30*l.* a year each. Two of these students have since taken the charge of ward schools, while another has been appointed assistant master at the institution. Their places have been filled by three others selected from among the probationers. Five more went out in the course of the year to become masters. The period of probation has ranged from five to fifteen months. This is too short a period for proper training, particularly as latterly the standard of qualification of those who have applied to be admitted as students has not been very high. The exigencies of the ward schools have made it necessary to send out the students sooner than was desirable.

It appears to me impossible to carry out any general system of education properly except in connexion with a training institution for schoolmasters. It is not so much a question of scientific attainment as it is one of being made acquainted with the proper method of teaching and of keeping up the discipline of a school. Uniformity of action ought to prevail in all the schools, and this action should be guided and directed by correct principles and practices, taught at a central institution. Educationists have been struggling latterly to reduce the system of teaching to certain fixed principles, instead of leaving every professing teacher to follow his own crude opinions on the subject. Considerable advancement has been made in this direction and every system of education now has its own normal schools.

The experience I have had on the subject has forced on my mind a sense of the sagacious foresight which prompted the establishment of a normal school at the very outset as a condition precedent to the success of a general scheme of education. And there can be no doubt but that the state and progress of the Normal School here require a watchful supervision and protection as the very foundation on which is built the superstructure of our system of education. Of vital importance also to this system is the Model School, where boys ought to have an opportunity of being fitted to fill any position of life short of that requiring classical attainments.

A return was made to the Board of Education containing all particulars relating to the highest class in the Model School, from its institution in the month of August 1853 up to the first of July 1854. Hereto will be found a history to the same class from the last-mentioned date up to the present time. And it will be impossible to consult this document without feeling that many most important and responsible positions are now held by young men who were indebted to the Model School, if not entirely, yet in a great measure, for the knowledge and other acquirements which have fitted them to occupy these positions.

Considering the staff of conscientious and hard-working men who have studied at the Normal School, and assisted at the Model School, the pupils at the Model School, particularly those of the science class, could not but profit by their exertions.

The average number of pupils on the rolls of this school during the year was -	122
And the average daily attendance was - - - - - -	82

The programme of the examination at this school in December last, as made out by the Superintendent, is hereto annexed. But I should not have it to be understood that the pupils are proficient in all the subjects mentioned in this document. In natural history, geography, and the principles of grammar, the boys in this school are well advanced, but in reading and spelling, arithmetic, writing, and writing by dictation, with the exception of the science class, I consider them inferior to the girls at Mrs. Alcock's school. The science class has dwindled down in numbers, a good many of them having left to seek for employment, and there are none of the junior boys sufficiently advanced to make up a good science class to replace those who have left. The discipline is not as good as that of the girls' school.

I have, &c.

ALEXR. WMS. ANDERSON,

Inspector of Schools.

Honourable the Colonial Secretary.

Enclosure 3. in No. 5.

RETURN of PRISONERS committed, with Particulars of Crime, Age, Country, Occupations, Courts from which committed, Number of Times convicted, &c., for the Year ending 31st December 1858.

Counties.	1857. M.	1857. F.	1858. M.	1858. F.
St. George	508	48	504	42
Caroni	135	5	114	4
Victoria	303	16	206	7
St. Patrick	45	3	82	1
St. David	7	1	4	–
Sup. C. Court	58	4	84	2
Gen. Ct. Martial	18	–	5	–
Debtors.				
St. George	10	2	6	–
Caroni	4	1	–	1
Victoria	7	–	14	2
St. Patrick	3	–	6	1
Sup. C. Court	12	–	25	3
Comp. Court	20	1	6	0
P. C. Court	97	13	57	20
TOTAL	1,121	98	1,113	83
Daily average 248				
Deaths.				
Sane	8	–	2	1
Insane	10	–	–	3
Number of Times committed.				
First	871	71	780	59
Second	150	13	193	10
Third or more	102	12	140	14

Age.	
8 to 10	2
10 „ 15	21
15 „ 20	89
20 „ 25	247
25 „ 30	327
30 „ 35	207
35 „ 40	164
40 „ 45	76
45 „ 50	45
50 „ 55	12
55 „ 60	4
60 „ 65	1
65 „ 70	1
TOTAL	1,196

Religion.	
Church of England	425
Presbyterian	11
Church of Rome	353
Wesleyan	10
Baptist	2
Lutheran	1
Mahometan	3
Chinese	28
Mussulman	7
Hindoo	356
TOTAL	1,196

Read and Write.	M.	F.
White	51	1
Black	65	1

Extent of Education acquired in Gaol.	
Reading	96
Writing	120
Arithmetic	72
Spelling	96
Scripture Reading	24

Crime, Offences, Debts, and Insanity.	
Attempting to set fire	1
Arson	1
Assault	102
Affray	7
Attempting to kill by poison	2
Breach of contract	316
Breach of articles of war	1
Burglary	10
Buggery	2
Cruelty to animals	3
Cutting and wounding	18
Contempt of court	5
Damaging property	5
Damaging to steal	4
Drunkenness	63
Debt	141
Desertion	3
Furious riding	2
Failing to produce certificate	22
Forgery	1
Fraud	1
Firing squibs in the streets	1
Found in a dwelling house at night	1
Gathering alms	2
Insubordination	72
Introducing spirits in gaol	1
Illtreating animals	2
Insanity	5
Indecent behaviour	6
Killing	4
Larceny	1
Murder	1
Maiming a horse	1
Obscene language	60
Perjury	1
Plying without license	4
Receiving stolen goods	4
Rape	2
Removing spirits without license	2
Resisting police constable	29
Setting fire	1
Smuggling spirits	2
Stealing in a dwelling house	5
Theft	258
Trespass	24

Punishments.	M.	F.
Solitary confinement	29	18
Irons	8	0
Whipping	7	0

Trades learnt in Gaol.	
Bakers	3
Carpenters	6
Masons	2
Mat Makers	2
Quarrymen	11
Seamstress	2
Shoemaker	1
Tailors	6
Upholsterer	1
Locksmith	1
TOTAL	35

Expenditure.	£	s.	d.
Expenditure, salaries included	4,760	2	1
Valuation of labour of prisoners	3,712	14	1
Daily cost of each prisoner without deduction	0	1	0½
Daily cost with deductions	0	0	2¾

Countries.	
At Sea	1
Antigua	18
Austria	1
America B.	21
Anguilla	4
Africa	128
Barbadoes	71
Brazils	1
Bermuda	5
China	29
Canada	1
Ceylon	1
Cape de Verdes	1
Demerara	3
Dominica	11
England	41
France	6
Grenada	30
Guadeloupe	2
Gibraltar	1
Ireland	18
India	372
Jamaica	6
Jersey	1
Italy	4
Martinique	3
Madeira	2
Montserrat	22
Nevis	15
Sweden	4
Spain	1
Saba	3
Scotland	22
St. Martin's	7
St. Vincent	28
St. Lucia	5
St. Croix	1
St. Kitt's	39
Trinidad	212
Tortola	4
Tobago	15
Trieste	2
United States	1
Venezuela	13

Occupations.	
Blacksmiths	2
Bakers	6
Brewer	1
Butcher	1
Carpenters	27
Clerk, Writing	8
Coopers	15
Carters	3
Coachman	1
Dentist	1
Distiller	1
Goldsmith	1
Huckster	1
House Servants	23
Joiner	1
Interpreter	1
Labourers	836
Masons	9
Mat Maker	1
Nurse	1
Naturalist	1
Porter	1
Painter	1
Planters	7
Printer	1
Quarryman	1
Seamen	134
Soldiers	26
Seamstress	6
Saddler	1
Shoemakers	2
Tailors	22
Ship Carpenter	1
Solicitor	1
Traders	5
Tinsmith	1
Upholsterers	4
Washers	28

Average Amount of Debts for which committed.	Total.
From 5s. to £1	43
„ £1 „ 3	47
„ 3 „ 5	11
„ 5 „ 10	6
„ 10 „ 15	4
„ 15 „ 20	2
„ 20 „ 25	3
„ 25 „ 30	10
„ 30 „ 50	6
„ 50 „ 100	6
Above 100	3

Total Number of Prisoners in Confinement 31st December 1858.	M.	F.
Felons	89	2
Misdemeanants	65	1
Military offender	1	0
Waiting trial	20	1
Want of security	1	0
Debtors	10	0
TOTAL	186	4

	M.	F.
Number sentenced to hard labour during the year	933	48

Royal Gaol, 31st December 1858.

DANIEL HART,
Superintendent of Prisons.

British Guiana.

BRITISH GUIANA.

No. 6.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Governor Wodehouse to his Grace the Duke of Newcastle.

(No. 113.)

Government House, Georgetown,
November 22, 1859.
(Received December 21, 1859.)

My Lord Duke,

I have the honour to forward the Blue Book of this colony for 1858, and beg to express my regret that its transmission should have been delayed in consequence of my having found it necessary to direct several alterations to be made in the copy first prepared.

I have, &c.

His Grace the Duke of Newcastle, &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) P. E. WODEHOUSE.

BARBADOS.

Barbados.

No. 7.

Copy of a DESPATCH from the Officer Administering the Government to His Grace the Duke of Newcastle.

(No. 66.)

Windward Islands, Barbados,
September 27, 1859.
(Received Oct. 18, 1859.)

My Lord Duke,

I have the honour to forward to your Grace the Blue Book of this Island for the year 1858.

Duties, Taxes, Fees.

The tariff of import duties for 1858 expired on the 31st of March of this year, when a new one came into operation, in which there were a few changes of no great consequence. Several articles, such as temper lime, tallow, and turpentine, which yielded little or no revenue, have been placed in the free list; and the duties on several articles of extensive use have been altered in their fractional amount to make them more easy of calculation. The most important change is in the duty on salt fish, which has been reduced from 4*d.* to 2*d.*, but without the privilege of bonding it. In this article there is throughout the West Indies a large trade of which Barbados is the centre. The quantity which was warehoused for exportation during the last three years was fully equal to that landed for consumption; and the reduction of the duty which, even at the old rate, made it scarcely worth while to bond it, will no doubt give a spur to the trade.

It has long been acknowledged that the fees of most of the Public Officers, particularly in the Legal Departments, require revision, but the matter is one which does not rest with the Executive.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The Revenue of the Island is in a most flourishing condition, and the surplus in the Treasury chest at the close of the year, which amounted to upwards of 30,000*l.*, had increased at the close of the first quarter of the present year to 32,078*l.*, and on the 30th of June last to 37,220*l.*

The Revenue and Expenditure of the last three years were as follows :—

—	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1856	85,061	70,575
1857	82,592	80,970
1858	96,914	87,891

The expenditure of the Island is about 100 per cent. more than it was 10 years ago, but this increase by no means implies an addition to that extent to the fixed establishments of the Colony. Beyond the creation of one or two new offices, such as those of Auditor at 700*l.* per annum, and of the Superintendent of Public Works at 500*l.*, and some increase of salaries, the most material of which was an addition of 50*l.* to the annual stipend of each of the 23 Island curates, the permanent charges on the Treasury have not been much changed. The chief additional expenditure has arisen from the extensive works which have been lately prosecuted in the Careenage or Inner Harbour, including the supply of an expensive but efficient dredging machine; from the building of a new Government house; from several large loans and grants for the erection or repair of churches and chapels; and from the payments made on account of the public debt, which was incurred through the visitation of Cholera in 1854.

These large expenses have been happily met in a most unobjectionable manner. A new tax of one shilling per gallon on all rum consumed in the Island produced in 1858 a sum of nearly 17,000*l.*, while the growth of the general trade of the Island with a much simpler and more moderate tariff of import duties than existed ten years ago, has produced more than double the revenue which was then drawn from the same source. The consequence has been a surplus revenue, and a large balance in hand as already stated.

Public Debt.

The public debt of the Island, which in 1856 amounted to 8,368*l.* 16*s.* 11*d.*, and in 1857 to 5,691*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*, was in the course of the past year altogether extinguished; the only charge remaining against the Colony which deserves the name, being a small sum of 291*l.*, payable to certain parties on the death of an annuitant. Militia.

Military.

For many years past the Militia of the Island has existed only on paper. There is a permanent law in force which requires an annual enrolment at the commencement of the year, but even this form has fallen into desuetude from the disregard which has been evinced to enforce the penalties of a non-compliance with the Act In consequence of the recent state of affairs in Europe, and following in the wake of the movement which has recently taken place in almost every one of Her Majesty's possessions, symptoms have been exhibited of a desire to form some kind of force, not for the defence of the Island, for that with our means would be vain, but to co-operate with the Queen's troops in case of attack, or to take their place temporarily in case they should be drawn off for service in another direction. A few weeks ago the Legislature passed a short Act to compel all qualified persons to enrol immediately; and advantage was taken of this step to ascertain, at the same time, whether any and how many of these were ready to volunteer, either as yeomanry cavalry or as riflemen. The result was that 200 young men professed their readiness to form a rifle corps, and that 400 proprietors and others, having horses, volunteered for the yeomanry. For a small place like this it was by no means a discouraging result; and there is every reason for believing that, if we had been able to give them an assurance that their arms and accoutrements would have been supplied to them by the Government, the numbers would have been considerably more. The total number who enrolled under the compulsory provisions of the Militia Act was little over 2,000. This, too, is far short of the numbers who are required and qualified to serve under the Militia Act, but the old and general belief prevailed that the penalties would not be enforced. I am not without hope that the rifle corps will be a success, if the Legislature will unite with me in giving it encouragement. The youth of the Island are generally very expert shots, from the fact of their having little other exercise or amusement but the firing at birds of passage.

Connected with the military defence of the Island may be remarked the transfer to the Colonial Government of the signal establishments. These posts and the lands belonging Signal stations.

BARBADOS.

to them were, in the year 1851, on the invitation of the Ordnance officers, vested in the Crown, on the condition that they would be upheld and maintained as part of the Imperial military establishment of the Empire, the Colony undertaking to pay a fixed annual sum towards the service. Whether this sum was enough or not does not appear; but in the early part of 1858, in consequence of an intimation from the Secretary of State for War that he considered the expense of the posts in time of peace to be unnecessary, the Legislature passed an Act to provide for their entire maintenance and repair, and for the pay of the signalmen.

Public Works.

Under this head I have but a sorry report to make. The steam dredge is in full operation in the careenage, and the molehead and wharves are being substantially repaired or renewed. But the public buildings about which so many Acts and Resolutions have been passed, rescinded, or become obsolete, and been passed again, are just as far advanced as ever. Last year, as happened 12 years ago, a new set of plans by an engineer officer were approved and exhibited, and tenders for the erection of the buildings were advertised for, but only one was received, and, for some unexplained reason, was not accepted. The foundations, according to this last plan, have been partly excavated by convict labour; but they are gradually filling up again with rubbish, and getting covered with rank weeds.

Waterworks.

But if our short-comings in the matter of public works be so marked, I must observe that there has been undertaken by a joint stock company, and with every prospect of success, a most important project for supplying Bridgetown with water. The distance from which it has to be brought, and even its scarcity, have proved great difficulties in every scheme hitherto proposed for the purpose. The present company has been incorporated by Act of the Legislature. Its capital is to consist of 50,000*l.*, in 10,000 shares of 5*l.* each, on which a dividend has been guaranteed by the Government under certain conditions as to a maximum rate of interest and as to the completion of the work. As soon as 25,000*l.* of the subscribed capital has been paid up and expended on the works, the local Legislature has authorized the issue of debentures for the remaining 25,000*l.* of the estimated cost of the scheme. Plans of the surveys and levels of the pipe tract have been approved by an eminent engineer in England, Mr. Hawksley, under whose advice contracts have been taken for the supply of the pipes and for the hydraulic apparatus to be attached to them, and it is expected that the works will commence on the 31st of December next, as, indeed, is required by the Law under which they are to derive the advantage of the public assistance.

Legislation.

During 1858, twenty-six Acts were passed by the Legislature. Of these, thirteen were to amend, suspend, or continue Acts formerly passed; seven were for loans or grants for public purposes, chiefly the building of chapels; and three were Private Bills.

Court of Appeal.

The first of all these Acts related to the new Court of Appeal for the Windward Islands, the establishment of which under your Grace's instructions has already been reported, but which in any Despatch purporting to give an account of the progress of the Colony it would be impossible not to notice.

The Court was established under the authority of an Imperial Act of Parliament passed in the session of 1850, which enacted that whenever the Legislatures of these Islands should have made due provision for the maintenance of such Court, it should be lawful for Her Majesty, by Order in Council, to erect and establish for the Colonies passing Acts for the purpose, a Court of Appeal to consist of such officers as each Colony might think proper to provide.

Barbados and all the other islands of this general Government having passed the requisite Laws for the maintenance of the Court in conformity to the Imperial Act, Her Majesty was pleased by Her Order in Council of the 3rd of March last to erect and establish this important tribunal, and to constitute as its judges the Chief Justices of Barbados, St. Vincent, Grenada, Tobago, and St. Lucia.

No time was thereafter lost in carrying out the Secretary of State's instructions for bringing the Court into immediate operation, and its first sitting in Barbados having been, under the authority of a clause in the Local Act, proclaimed to take place on the 30th of June last, all the judges from the several islands assembled here and formally inaugurated the Court on that day, and agreed upon the rules and practice to be observed in cases of appeal within the respective islands. These rules have all been since submitted for the approval of the Governor in Council in each of the chartered islands, and for the ratification of the Legislative Council in St. Lucia, and are most of them, indeed, by this time on their way to being finally submitted to the Queen in Council.

Some short time is required to intervene before the rules become valid and take effect, and then the Court may be said to be in full operation.

This is an institution the working of which is contemplated with unmixed satisfaction by the people of the Windward Islands as well as by bench and bar.

Hackney carriages.

Illustrative of our progress in another department is the Act to amend an Act passed in 1855, to regulate the licensing and fares of hackney carriages. Six years ago there was not one to be had for hire except by sending for it to the livery stables. In 1848 the number licensed to ply for hire was 72.

Rum duty.

The "Act to consolidate and amend the Rum Duty Acts" leads to the consideration of a most successful tax. Almost the last in the West India Colonies to make the consumption of rum a source of revenue, Barbados has been the most to profit by it. The very large sum of money obtained from the small duty of one shilling on each gallon sold for consumption in the Island produced last year, as I have already said, 17,000*l.*, a sum of money which would make the annual average consumption of rum by each adult man and woman in 1858 somewhere above five gallons. But over and above this quantity there is an immense amount consumed on the different estates, and is free of duty as being "used for domestic purposes." Add to all this the entry for home consumption in 1858 of brandy and other foreign spirits of 21,700 gallons, besides a proportionate importation of wine, and the inference might be deduced that the Barbadians were a dissipated people. It is not so, however. With a great proportion of the better class there is a temperance amounting almost to abstinence, and drunkenness is by no means the vice of the labourer. Whether we are indebted to the local tax on its consumption or to the demand for the spirit in Europe, the quantity exported in 1858, out of an average crop, was much greater than in former years.

Roads.

The Road Act of 1858 was a mere continuance of the law of the preceding year. Barbados, of all the West India islands, has long been famous for its good roads, and this year the Legislature has marked their sense of their importance by increasing the public contribution towards their support from 3,275*l.* to 5,300*l.*

Public library.

Another Act passed in 1858 which I should not omit to notice was to appropriate to the support of the public library a considerable sum of money which had accumulated in the hands of the Receiver of Her Majesty's casual Revenue from Escheated Estates. While the Crown willingly placed this money at the disposal of the Legislature, it was still on the condition that the Island should make good or repay any claim which might hereafter be proved to any portion of it, and this was cheerfully done.

The only remaining Legislative Act of 1858 to which I think it worth while to direct attention is the Act to amend the General Hospital Act of 1840.

General hospital.

Since the establishment of this institution it had been customary for the Legislature to make from time to time grants in aid of its support. The sums of money thus voted varied from 800*l.* to 1,000*l.* per annum. But complaints had been made from the opening of the hospital to the present time, that no accommodation was provided for such sick merchant seamen as required treatment ashore, and that the public, who contributed so materially to the support of the establishment, were not sufficiently represented in its direction. This Act gives, therefore, to the Legislature a larger share in the Goverment and control of the hospital by the appointment of certain members of Council and of the Assembly as Directors, and it grants the sum of 3,000*l.* for enlarging and repairing the building and adding a seaman's ward to it. It also appropriates a fixed annual sum of 2,000*l.* for the support of the institution, and the further sum of 300*l.* towards the remuneration of the medical officers and a chaplain.

Franchise.

The number of registered electors in 1858 was even less than in 1857. Last year the number was 1,220; in 1857 it was 1,232. There were, however, a considerable number of new electors put upon the registry, but the diminution is to be explained by a recent enactment for purging the registry of the names of parties (and they were numerous) who were either dead or disqualified by change of domicile or otherwise. Still, however, there is a lamentable apathy exhibited as to the possession and exercise of the franchise.

Civil Establishment.

There have been very few alterations in the civil establishment of the Island during the past year. The death of the former Deputy Postmaster-General has enabled the Imperial Post Office to withdraw their establishment, which, since the creation of an inland post, had existed under the name of a packet agency; and the whole duty of receiving, delivering, and despatching letters to and from the island has devolved on the colonial officers, by whom the daily delivery of inland letters is also performed.

BARBADOS. The retirement of the Harbour Master upon a pension has led to the abolition of the office of Deputy Harbour Master, the holder of which has succeeded his principal.

Ecclesiastical.

From the last report of the Barbados Ecclesiastical Board I gather that altogether the number of places of worship belonging to the Established Church is as follows:—

11	Parish churches, with	-	11,606 sittings.
23	Chapels „	-	14,956 „
7	Chapel schools „	-	2,045 „
6	Licensed places of worship, with		1,200 „

being accommodation for nearly 30,000 people. The building of several new chapels, and the enlargement of others, are in contemplation.

The number of clergy in the Island for whom stipends are provided from the public Treasury is:—

11 Rectors.
23 Curates.
1 Chaplain to the prisons.

Besides these there are eight other clergymen employed in parochial work, who are remunerated from other sources, four more engaged at Codrington College, and a Chaplain to the Forces, who assists occasionally in services unconnected with his military duty.

Besides the clergy of the Established Church there is a Roman Catholic priest, some four or five Moravian ministers, and as many, if not more Wesleyans. The Dissenters, particularly the Moravians, who are a very good people, are increasing in numbers.

In connexion with the labours of the Church of England, I should not omit to mention the accession during the last year of several Scripture readers and catechists, making their staff in this respect amount to 25, independent of three others supported by voluntary contributions.

Education.

It is now my pleasing duty to report what has been done under this important head.

In December 1858, an Act was passed amending the Education Act of 1850. The principal ends sought to be attained by this Act, were an improvement of the schoolmasters, a more efficient inspection of the schools receiving public assistance, and an increase of the Legislative grant.

One of the greatest difficulties which the cause of education has had to contend with in this Colony has been the sad inefficiency of the schoolmasters, as a body. This, however, is not to be wondered at when we reflect how little attention was, until recently, paid to this subject, especially among the class from which our schoolmasters are chiefly derived.

With a view of remedying this defect, provision is made for training pupil-teachers from whom we may hope to obtain a supply of masters for the future. At the same time an effort is also made to stimulate the present masters to improve themselves by means of an annual examination at which certificates will be awarded to such as may acquit themselves creditably. These certificates will be of three classes, and will entitle the holder of one to a yearly premium, varying in amount and depending on the class to which he belongs, to be awarded by the Education Committee out of the funds at their disposal. I am informed that the Committee are at present engaged in making arrangements for the first examination under the Act and they hope to hold it before the close of the year.

Pupil-teachers at a small salary will be admitted at such of the schools as shall be recommended by the inspector. The master of any school at which pupil-teachers are received will also be entitled to a fee for each one under his instruction, and as schools under the charge of certificated masters will be the most likely to be recommended for the reception of pupil-teachers, a further incentive to improvement will thus be held out.

Owing to the very inadequate salary that was attached to the office of Inspector of Schools by the Act of 1850, the Education Committee were under the necessity of appointing as inspector a person who could only devote to the duties of the office, such

portion of his time as he could spare from his other avocations. This was felt to be a very unsatisfactory arrangement, and the salary was increased to 300*l.* a year, and the inspector is required to give all his time and energies to the inspection of the schools of the island. The late inspector has been re-appointed on resigning the mastership of the Boys' Central School, which he previously held.

By the Act of 1850, the sum of 3,000*l.* was placed at the disposal of the Education Committee to meet their expenditure for two years. This grant has been increased to 5,000*l.* for a similar period.

The number of primary schools receiving aid from the Committee is 74, of which 58 are in connexion with the Established Church, eight belong to the Moravians, and eight to the Wesleyans. There are also 20 infant schools in connexion with the Church of England and eight with the Moravians.

The number of children on the books of the several schools amounts to 10,274, of whom 7,310 attend those of the Established Church, 1,935 those of the Moravians, and 1,029 those of the Wesleyans. The numbers in average attendance at all the schools inclusive are 6,249.

The schools belonging to the Established Church received during the last quarter 300*l.* 16*s.* 11*d.* from the Legislative grant, and 317*l.* 14*s.* 9*d.* from school fees; the Moravian schools 95*l.* 10*s.* 2½*d.* and 90*l.* 17*s.* 0½*d.*, and the Wesleyan schools 64*l.* 10*s.* 11½*d.* and 70*l.* 4*s.* 6*d.* from the same sources respectively.

The Education Committee are also authorized to make grants to middle schools but there is only one receiving aid at present at their hands.

An Act was also passed during the early part of this year to amend the Central School Acts. By this Act the Legislative grant is increased from 512*l.* to 800*l.* per annum, and the schools are to be made available, as far as practicable, for the training of masters and mistresses for the primary and dame schools of the Island. The directors are directing their attention to carry out the intentions of the Legislature and the objects of the Act.

Trade Imports and Exports.

I subjoin a Table of the Imports and Exports of the principal necessaries of life and of plantation supplies during the last five years. To persons desirous of information respecting the trade and consumption of the Island this will be an interesting table. The following is the total value of the whole of the imports and exports during the last three years.

—	Imposts.			Exports.		
	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
1856	841,254	14	4	971,028	7	3
1857	976,306	13	2	1,345,361	8	4
1858	1,325,118	15	4	1,468,449	10	2

Balance of trade.

These figures would appear to give an average balance in favour of the Island of upwards of 200,000*l.* in each of the three last years. But I place no reliance on this return for the following plain and simple reasons.

We may presume with some safety, that in a port where the bulk of our import duties are *ad valorem* duties, the importers of goods are not likely to return them at more than their value.

But while a strong motive exists for not overvaluing the imports, there is a tendency to over-estimate the value of the produce exported from the Island, which it is difficult to account for satisfactorily.

For example, in 1858 the exports are put down at 1,468,449*l.* Of these the sugar alone is estimated at 1,051,839*l.* Now the amount of sugar shipped last year was 50,000 hogsheads, which was as nearly as possible valuing it at 21*l.* per hogshead. I am quite sure that taking them all round, the sales of the hogsheads shipped from Barbados last year did not average over 17*l.* A deduction must therefore be made of 200,000*l.* from the sum total of the exports, and leaves an excess of imports to the amount of 143,331*l.* This result effectually sweeps away the favourable notion which one is apt to derive from comparing the official return of the value of imports and exports, and shows a serious state of things for a Colony which possesses no internal trade or manufactures of any importance save the one article for export. My firm belief is, that on the greater

BARBADOS.

Expenses of sugar cultivation.

number of estates throughout the Island, sugar has been cultivated at a loss in Barbados both last year and this year. Of course I have it not in my power, as regards 1859, to substantiate this statement by figures, but the system of forcing large crops, without reference to the cost at which it may be done, and in neglect of all those rules which give husbandry its name, has become a perfect mania. The principal ingredients which enter into the calculation of this question of profit or loss, and which, I am afraid, are not at present sufficiently and coolly considered, are:

1. The enormous quantities of foreign manures; the consumption of Peruvian guano alone costing the planter, in 1858, something like 80,000*l.*

2. The purchase of oats, oil meal, and other imported food for the stock which is rendered necessary by the want of the fodder and corn formerly grown on the estates, and which furnished at the same time such admirable material for the best of all manures.

3. The destruction of the pastures, which not only gave support to the stock but rest to the soil.

4. But above all, the undoubted inferiority of the sugar now made under this forcing system; for with it Barbados Muscovado has fallen materially in price, is not in the same demand, and no longer stands, as it used to do, at the head of the market.

I have referred in the commencement of this Report to the flourishing state of the Revenue, and ascribed it in a great measure to the increase of the collections from import duties; but from what has just been stated it will be inferred that it is not a *wholesome* increase of trade, and that it will not last long. In the meantime, with whatever pressure it bears, and must finally operate on the industry of the Island, it is clear that it is a system to which the merchant can have little objection; that is, he has an immediate, though it must be a short-lived interest, in the shipment and sale of every pound of sugar which can be extracted from the land, and in the importation of all the additional supplies which must necessarily be bought to sustain a large crop, and of those articles of food for both man and beast, the growth of which on the spot has been displaced by the sugar cane.

The sugar crop which has just been closed has given 39,663 hogsheads, a far more favourable yield than was anticipated when they commenced to cut the canes in March last.

The crops of the three previous years have been—

For 1856	-	43,582	hogsheads.
„ 1857	-	38,885	„
„ 1858	-	50,027	„

With regard to the crop of 1860 and the immediate prospects of the Island, I am afraid that I cannot follow in the wake of those Blue Book reporters who describe the past as all gloom, and paint a most brilliant future for the Colony. Two months ago the Island presented the appearance of one magnificent garden, and the young plants were every where most promising; but we have now for many weeks past been visited with a drought the most severe and untimely I have ever witnessed, which has already irretrievably destroyed the canes on many estates, and which threatens, if it lasts many days more, to produce the most serious consequences to all. That the distress which will ensue from a failure of the crop of 1860 will be more than ordinarily severe, is evident from the facts I have represented, and more immediately from the extraordinary expenses which must have been incurred in endeavouring to establish it.

Still, if one could overlook the distress and ruin which such a failure is certain to bring down on individuals, I am not sure that a more wholesome state of things would not spring out of it. Its first effect would be to reduce the present spurious and exorbitant price of properties here to a more natural value. The competition to obtain an estate when it is for sale is so great that the most exorbitant bids are made for it, and the possessor enters upon a property for a price the very interest money on which eats up half his crop. Destroy this fictitious high price of land, and teach the planter to regulate his own personal expenses and the expenses of cultivating his property by his minimum and not his maximum income, and there is an elasticity in Barbados and its resources which need create no despair. They have a plentiful supply of labour, there is a surpassing industry in its people, both black and white, and its soil, shallow as it is, has nevertheless great capabilities for a cultivation which, when successful, is about the most profitable in the world.

Crime.

With regard to the gaol returns, I have nothing to report but a continued absence of crimes of a heinous character. The discipline of the prisoners has given rise to more discussion here in late years than has been usual in similar small colonies. The discussion, however, has lulled, and breaches of gaol discipline have at the same time become few in

number. I should not like to venture upon the assertion that the one has nothing to do with the other; that men in prison, who had no other excitement or diversion of any kind, were not led to commit folly or mischief, in the knowledge that their acts would be matter of notice, of debate, and often of pardon.

In a speech on the administration of justice in Ireland, Lord Brougham speaking of the old hands in gaol, said, "It should not be kept out of sight that the persons who have "been most often committed to prison, are oftentimes the best behaved within its walls. "The wild bird will flap her wings against the bars, when the tame one, born and bred "in slavery, will never touch a wire of her cage with a feather of her pinions."

Never could anything with more truth describe the conduct when in confinement of the old and hardened thieves in this island, men who have been convicted a dozen of times, and for whom of course we have no secondary punishment but a limited imprisonment with hard labour. They are seldom, if ever, guilty of the smallest delinquency in gaol; and from the fact that the ticket-of-leave indulgence is principally confined to first offences, a tolerable proportion of the inmates of the prisons are old offenders.

Charitable Institutions.

Under the head of Charitable Institutions, I should remark that now the General Hospital has been taken over by the public, there is no institution, save a soup society and a daily meal society, both in the parish of St. Michael, maintained entirely by private contributions. But I have reason to believe that there is an amount of private charity exercised throughout the Island by people of all grades which is almost incredible. Amongst the labouring class particularly it is surprising to observe the endless amount of cases in which the number of inmates of their dwellings is swollen by the generous manner in which they share their homes and their victuals with orphan children or with frail or infirm friends and connexions.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JAS. WALKER.

His Grace the Duke of Newcastle,
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure 1 in No. 7.

TABLE OF DUTIES OF CUSTOMS INWARDS.

	£	s.	d.
Asses, each	0	8	4
Bread, white or brown, the 100 lbs.	0	0	5
Bricks, the 1,000	0	2	1
Butter, the 100 lbs.	0	6	3
Candles, tallow, the 100 lbs.	0	4	2
———, other kinds, the 100 lbs.	0	8	4
Cattle, neat or horned, the head	0	8	4
Cement, the 100 lbs.	0	0	5
Cheese, the 100 lbs.	0	6	3
Cider or perry in wood, the gallon	0	0	0½
———— in bottle, the dozen	0	0	6
Cigars, the 1,000	1	5	0
Coal and mixed preparations thereof, the ton	0	2	1
Copper (sheet), the 100 lbs.	0	1	0½
Cocoa, the 100 lbs.	0	1	0½
Cordage, the 100 lbs.	0	1	0½
Corn and grain unground, the bushel	0	0	2
Fish, pickled or smoked, the barrel	0	0	6
——, dryed or salted, the 112 lbs.	0	0	2
Flour, wheat or rye, the barrel	0	3	6
——, Indian meal or other kind, the barrel	0	1	0
Hoops, wood, the 1,000	0	2	1
Horses, each	1	13	4
Lard, the 100 lbs.	0	3	4
Lead, metal, the 100 lbs.	0	0	2½
Lead, white, the 100 lbs.	0	1	0½
Lumber, white pitch pine or yellow, 1,000 feet superficial	0	2	1
Malt liquor in wood, the cask not exceeding 64 gallons	0	4	2
Ditto, ditto, in bottle, the dozen	0	0	3
Matches, the gross	0	2	6
Meat, salted or cured, the 100 lbs.	0	4	2
Mules, each	1	5	0
Rice, the 100 lbs.	0	0	5
Shingles, cedar, the 1,000	0	1	0½
———, other kinds, the 1,000	0	2	1
Soap, the 100 lbs.	0	1	0½
Spirits (other than rum) and cordials, the gallon	0	3	4
Snuff, for every 100*l.* of the value	25	0	0
Staves, the 1,000	0	2	1
Syrup, the gallon	0	1	0½
Tea, the lb.	0	0	2½
Tobacco, the lb.	0	0	2½
Wines for every 100*l.* of the value	15	0	0
Not being prohibited to be imported for consumption into this Island by any Act or Acts of the Imperial Parliament.			
Coffee, the 100 lbs.	0	2	1
Molasses, the 100 lbs.	0	1	0½
Rum, the gallon	0	2	8
Sugar refined, the 100 lbs.	0	7	6
——— raw or Muscovado, the 100 lbs.	0	2	1
Not being imported into this Island from any place from which they are prohibited by any Act or Acts of the Imperial Parliament to be imported.			
Gunpowder, blasting, the keg 25 lbs.	0	1	0½
Fowling pieces, guns, muskets, and gunpowder in canisters, goods, wares, and merchandize, plantation supplies, clothing, and effects of every description not herein particularly enumerated	3 per cent. ad valorem.		

BARBADOS.

TABLE OF EXEMPTIONS.

The following articles not to be subject to duty under this Act:—

Articles for the use of the Governor of the Island and Commander of the Forces for the time being.
Building materials and supplies for the use of Her Majesty's Army and Navy, military clothing, accoutrements and appointments imported by Officers of Her Majesty's Army and Navy, for their own use.
Blubber and heads and offals of fish.
Bullion, coin, and diamonds.
Cassaripe.
Cocoanuts.
Empty bottles.
Fresh fish.
Fresh meats.
Fruit and vegetables.
Furniture in use by passengers.
Fuel wood and charcoal.
Green ginger.
Hay and straw.
Hoe sticks.
Hops.
Ice.
Leeches.
Lime, temper.
Live and dead stock not enumerated.
Logwood.
Manure.
Military clothing, accoutrements, and appointments exported from the United Kingdom, under the authority of Her Majesty's Treasury, for the use of Her Majesty's troops.
Nuts.
Old metals.
Organs and other musical instruments used in churches and chapels of every denomination.
Packages in which goods are imported, except trunks, new vats, hogsheads, and puncheons.
Passengers' baggage, containing apparel, and articles of personal use and professional apparatus.
Personal effects of individuals belonging to this Island dying abroad.
Pozzolano.
Printed or manuscript books and papers.
Raw hides and skins.
Salt.
Soda water.
Specimens illustrative of natural history, seeds, bulbs, and roots of flowering plants or shrubs.
Tablets and tombstones.
Tallow.
Tar, pitch, and resin.
Turpentine.
Turtle shell.

Wines and other liquors imported by military and naval messes, for the use of such messes.

All articles and supplies exempt from duty under this or the first-recited Act shall, if purchased out of bond for the use of the persons having right to import the same free of duty, be taken without payment of duty, on proper certificates from the head of the department of the parties purchasing the same being produced to the comptroller or other principal officer of the Customs, verifying the fact.

Encl. 2 in No. 7.

Enclosure 2 in No. 7.

IMPORTS and EXPORTS for 1854, 1855, 1856, 1857, 1858.

—	Barrels.				Puns.	Fish.		Butter.		Rice.		Boxes.	
	Flour.	Beef.	Pork.	Meal.	Meal.	Qlts. Dry.	Bls. Pickled.	Fks.	Kegs.	Tcs.	Bags.	Candles.	Soap.
Imports.													
1854	36,414	1,500	9,438	49,106	—	50,836	6,911	10,959	4,790	117	42,641	27,288	33,011
1855	30,089	981	5,363	37,916	—	72,664	6,874	7,584	3,349	56	26,353	28,597	25,742
1856	49,374	2,236	8,607	66,159	66	99,639	6,698	8,275	4,746	191	43,665	23,953	22,680
1857	45,675	986	5,851	41,788	—	92,580	5,671	7,950	3,862	19	35,840	28,368	25,492
1858	79,766	2,646	12,196	67,053	—	73,002	11,492	11,326	7,297	257	44,402	28,141	24,961
Exports.													
1854	8,507	538	2,977	2,490	—	15,850	1,251	3,395	747	43	10,657	3,158	9,668
1855	11,479	308	3,166	5,808	—	29,888	1,105	3,103	252	2	12,266	4,292	12,611
1856	18,318	764	4,378	9,325	—	48,493	1,988	2,893	274	63	11,614	3,487	5,105
1857	17,053	416	3,023	1,039	—	55,990	1,882	2,839	337	12	19,119	3,311	7,461
1858	30,369	1,223	5,611	10,106	—	41,605	3,583	3,535	644	44	13,753	3 712	16,040

—	Lard.	Oats.			Bags.		Lumber.		Shingles.	Staves.	Horses.	Mules.
	Kegs.	Hhds.	Puns.	Sacks.	Peas.	Corn.	White Pine.	Pitch Pine.				
Imports.							M.	M.	M.	M.		
1854	7,128	308	406	20,903	9,546	18,305	4,428	864	4,292	3,021	370	417
1855	5,800	46	291	23,301	10,325	13,167	4,886	496	7,436	3,160	341	88
1856	8,567	59	403	23,591	6,861	28,462	5,194	579	14,285	3,372	489	436
1857	4,502	97	48	29,792	4,002	17,109	6,122	1,486	11,537	1,541½	594	712
1858	8,976	137	571	47,033	7,896	30,824	7,543	1,036	15,494	2,472	657	587
Exports.												
1854	1,205	—	1	3,573	932	1,831	21	5	2	31	100	173
1855	1,109	1	2	6,921	3,155	3,061	1,347	30½	118	39	135	34
1856	2,070	31	162	4,827	1,401	9,477	97	8	426	355	155	323
1857	425	10	14	7,163	250	5,122	78	15	336	250	245	354
1858	2,157	—	85	14,411	1,235	8,893	—	—	—	205	120	374

GRENADA.

No. 8.

COPY of DESPATCH from the Officer Administering the Government to the Right Hon. Sir E. B. LYTTON, Bart., M.P.

(No. 18.)

Windward Islands, Barbados,
June 13, 1859.
(Received July 20, 1859.)

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit the Grenada Blue Book for 1858, with the accompanying Report thereon, from the Lieut.-Governor, which gives a very favourable account of the financial condition of the Island.

2. It will be gratifying to you to learn that, whilst we have been unfortunate in our endeavours to secure in another neighbouring island the benefit of a good schoolmaster from home, the introduction of Mr. Noble into Grenada as head master of the grammar and normal schools there, has been a most successful measure.

In the present state of these Colonies, with so many respectable old families in decayed circumstances, it is not easy to estimate the blessings of a well-conducted grammar school; but more than these are the advantages which are promised by the normal school, of training and sending out competent teachers through the Island, for it is the difficulty, and even the impossibility, of obtaining efficient masters which have retarded the progress of general rudimentary instruction in the West Indies.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. Sir E. B. Lytton, Bart., M.P. (Signed) JAS. WALKER.
&c. &c.

Enclosure in No. 8.

Encl. in No. 8.

SIR,

Grenada, Government Office, June 6, 1859.

I REGRET to find that the Blue Book for 1858 has not yet been forwarded, nor has the Report which usually accompanies it been prepared. As it is of course desirable that no further delay should take place, I hasten to transmit it to you with a short report, noticing only those subjects of paramount importance, such as statistics connected with the revenue and expenditure of the Colony for the past year, and matters relating to the trade and commerce of the Island.

2. The total fixed revenue for 1858 amounted to 14,308*l.* 16*s.* 5*d.*, and the receipts in aid of the revenue, *i.e.*, monies raised under the Annual Supply Bill, and from other fluctuating and uncertain sources, to 3,351*l.* 9*s.* 4*d.*, exhibiting the total revenue raised during 1858 at 17,660*l.* 5*s.* 9*d.* This does not include the surplus of 5,378*l.* 18*s.* 6*d.* in the Treasury at the close of 1857.

3. This statement shows a net increase of 1,572*l.* 11*s.* 9*d.* over the revenue of the preceding year, which, inclusive of the loan of 1,400*l.* contracted on account of the deficiency in the Treasury in 1856, which appears in the Blue Book as an item of revenue, amounted to not more than 16,087*l.* 14*s.*

4. The increase of revenue has been principally on imports, and slightly on duties on rum; on the other hand, there has been a trifling decrease in the amount derived from fees collected in the public offices.

5. Notwithstanding that the duty on articles imported during the year 1858 produced 1,103*l.* 19*s.* 10*d.* more than in 1857, the actual value of imports was less; this is attributable to the alteration of the tariff towards the end of 1857, under which many articles of trifling value previously subject to an ad valorem duty became liable to a specific charge. The following table shows the comparative value of the imports and exports:—

IMPORTS.

1857	1858.	Decrease in 1858.
£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*
109,061 13 3	103,165 5 3	5,896 8 0

EXPORTS.

1857.	1858.	Increase in 1858.
£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*
172,271 16 7	185,613 1 10	13,331 5 3

GRENADA.

The exportation of sugar exceeded by upwards of 1,000 hogsheads that of the previous year.

6. The comparative yearly statement of the expenditure exhibits an increase of 1,695*l.* 4*s.* over that of 1857, the amounts being, in 1857, 13,544*l.* 17*s.* 7*d.*, and in 1858, 15,240*l.* 11*s.* 7*d.* This sum includes 552*l.* deposited as interest in the Colonial Bank for the formation of a sinking fund for the redemption of the debt contracted in 1857.

7. It is to be observed also, that whereas in 1857 not more than 200*l.* was expended on the repairs of roads out of the general revenue of the Colony, in 1858 839*l.* 3*s.* 11*d.* was devoted to that purpose, the special road tax in operation in 1857 having expired.

8. It may be premature to bring to your notice facts which in reality will form part of the Report on the Blue Book for the current year, but as they have been brought about by the present state of the Colony, I do not think I shall be much out of order in noticing them here. By the Supply Bill for the present year the sum of 848*l.* has been raised and placed in the Colonial Bank for the purpose of meeting the balance of the debt of 1,400*l.* which will be due at the commencement of 1862. Without the necessity of resorting to additional taxation, the Legislature has also been enabled to make liberal provision for the militia of the Island, for the repairs of public buildings, and for salaries to additional medical men throughout the Colony. It has also considered the country to be in a position to admit of the suspension, for a limited period, of the operation of the Tonnage Acts, in the hope that the commercial resources of the Colony may be thereby placed on a sounder basis, and that an increased number of vessels may be induced to visit the ports of the Island. By this a loss of not more than 800*l.* can be sustained, whilst it is supposed that the advantages to be gained by offering facilities to shipping will more than compensate for the surrender of so small a sum.

9. As a step towards the establishment of a paid magistracy in the Colony, provision has been made for a salary of 300*l.* for a police magistrate for the western district. Although I have frequently recommended this measure, as one calculated to improve to a very great extent the administration of justice, and to afford satisfaction to the labouring population; still I regret to find that the Act authorizing the appointment is limited in its duration to three years, thereby imposing on the Executive the necessity of selecting a resident of the Island to fill it, and neutralizing in a great measure the good effect which would result from it if the appointment could be held by a person totally unconnected with the Colony. However, the salary is too small, and the duration of the office too short to hold out any inducement to a person out of the Island to accept the situation. The effect is now merely to place on the shoulders of one salaried person the work hitherto performed gratuitously by several. This increased expenditure sanctioned by the Legislature shows that confidence in the resources of the Colony is again re-established, and that the violent outcry for retrenchment raised in 1856 was scarcely necessary, and I believe, has been in some instances injurious to the public service.

10. It is, I believe, unnecessary to enter at any great length upon the subject of immigration; the question having been lately brought, in all its bearings, to the notice of the Secretary of State by the Governor in chief. I shall confine myself therefore to appending to this Report a copy of the immigration account from January to December 1858, by which it will be observed that a sum of 2,223*l.* 1*s.* 3d. was at that time available for immigration purposes. I believe that at present there are sufficient funds in hand to meet the expenses of the next importation of coolies, without having recourse to the amount in the hands of the Emigration Commissioners in England.

11. On the subject of education, it is gratifying to remark that the system introduced by the Education Act passed in 1857 appears to be working with some degree of success. The Bill was founded upon an Act of the Bahama Islands, modified to suit this Colony. I append a report from Mr. Noble, the Inspector of Schools, which though short is satisfactory as regards the future progress of education. Our thanks are due to the clergy of all denominations for the interest they have taken in the success of the system, which, without their support and influence, must have proved a failure. The Legislature has shown an enlightened and liberal spirit in placing at the disposal of the Governor and Board of Education the funds necessary for carrying out the plan of education fixed upon, and so fully alive is each of its members to the importance of instructing the rising generation, that I do not believe there would be any hesitation to increase the educational grant, provided it could be shown that the money had been properly and profitably expended. I am happy to be able to report favourably of the grammar school under the superintendence of Mr. Noble. There is scarcely a family of respectability in the Island, having sons to educate, that has not patronized the institution, setting a praiseworthy example to those moving in a lower station of life. To Mr. Noble's credit I may state that those gentlemen with whom I have spoken on the subject, express their entire satisfaction at the progress made by the pupils under his charge.

12. The labouring population is orderly, well disposed, and generally prosperous. Pauperism is scarcely known; of two alms-houses, one, kept up by voluntary contributions for the maintenance of aged respectable females, contains eight inmates; the other, supported by a grant from the Colony, contains not more than seventeen persons, too aged or infirm to provide for their own maintenance.

13. I regret to have been obliged to compress my Report into so small a compass, but a few days only having elapsed since my resumption of the Government, I have considered that it would be advisable rather to transmit a short account of the state of the Colony in its most important phases, than by entering into a more diffused report, to delay any longer the transmission of the Blue Book.

I have &c.
(Signed) C. H. KORTRIGHT.

His Excellency Governor Walker,
&c. &c. &c.

Sub-Enclosure.

GRENADA.

Sub-Encl.

Immigration Account to December 31, 1858.

EXPENDITURE.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
To paid Drawback Duty on Rum exported	13	19	0			
To paid Salary of Immigration Agent	50	0	0			
To paid Salary of Coolie Interpreters	67	0	0			
To paid for Necessaries for Coolies	18	12	1			
To paid Expenses at Calcutta for Coolies ex "Maidstone"	670	2	8			
To paid Gratuities to Capt. Fitz Simon and Dr. Prius, "Fulwood"	75	0	0			
To paid Dr. Prius as Medical Officer in charge of Coolies, ex "Fulwood"	159	16	0			
To paid Dr. Aquart as Health Officer for Services on board the "Fulwood"	9	1	0			
To paid Interest and for Sinking Fund	320	16	8			
				1,384	7	5
To Balance in hand this date				2,223	1	3
				£3,607	8	8

RECEIPTS.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
By Balance in hand 1st January 1858				606	11	3
By received on account of Passage Money of Coolies, ex "Maidstone"	372	4	4			
By received Interest on first instalment of Passage Money of Coolies, ex "Maidstone"	22	9	11			
By received in full of certain Passage Money of Coolies, ex "Fulwood"	1,225	5	0			
By received on account of Passage Money of Coolies, ex "Fulwood"	131	10	0			
By received Duty on Rum consumed in the Island	1,234	3	3			
By received Export Duty on certain Articles	15	4	11			
				3,000	17	5
				£3,607	8	8

MATT. DAVIES, Public Treasurer.

Sub-Enclosure.

Sub-Encl.

Education in Grenada.

Grenada, December 31, 1858.

AT the time of my inspection of the schools receiving aid from the funds at the disposal of the Board of Education, I found there were 16 such schools, with the names of 1,181 pupils on the rolls, and an average attendance of 724.

Since then the numbers have very considerably increased; the St. Andrew's Roman Catholic school presents an increase of no less than 60 pupils, and continues improving.

The St. Patrick's and St. Paul's schools also show considerable increase in attendance. Other schools are also improving in a manner similarly satisfactory. I believe that this result has been attained in a great degree by the interest taken by the patrons in the management of their respective schools, and in some cases by the replacement of inferior teachers by others better qualified for this work. None of the clergy in connexion with the schools have expressed any dissatisfaction with the working of the system, and all of them seem to have contributed their best efforts toward its success. This is one great advantage which denominational schools have. They have the support of the influence of the clergy, and this is an important point in the education of the people. With regard to the proficiency of the pupils it is considerably below the average; partly I believe from irregularity of attendance, and partly from the incompetency of many of the teachers and the want of proper books and school requisites.

The normal school, however, which has been established is likely to prove successful in sending out young men as properly qualified schoolmasters, and the necessary books and school requisites are about to be issued to the schools by the Board of Education.

There are at present 11 young men in training at the normal school, most of whom are likely in some time to turn out efficient teachers. On the whole there is every probability of the present system elevating the standard of education, and of its diffusing its blessings m ich more widely among the rising generation in this Colony.

(Signed) JOHN J. NOBLE,
Inspector of Schools and Head Master of the Normal and Grammar School, Grenada.

TOBAGO.

TOBAGO.

No. 9.

COPY of DESPATCH from the Officer Administering the Government to the Right Honourable Sir E. B. LYTTON, Bart., M.P.

(No. 23.)

Barbados, June 28, 1859.

SIR, (Received August 6, 1859.)

I HAVE the honour to transmit the Blue Book of Tobago for the year 1858, with the usual report from the Lieutenant Governor on the state of the island.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. Sir E. B. Lytton, Bart., M.P. (Signed) JAS. WALKER.
&c. &c. &c.

TOBAGO.

Encl. in No. 9.

Enclosure in No. 9.

REPORT from Lieut.-Governor DRYSDALE to Governor WALKER.

(No 32.)

SIR, Government House, Tobago, June 8, 1859.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Excellency the Blue Book of this island for the last year, the completion of which has been unavoidably delayed, owing to the illness of the Colonial Secretary, who has been recently obliged to repair to Europe for the benefit of his health.

2. In my despatch accompanying the Blue Book for 1857 I had occasion to report the improved and improving state of this island, and I then entered so fully into an account of the social and financial condition of the colony, that it will be unnecessary for me here to review in detail the various subjects to which I then adverted.

3. The financial state of the colony is satisfactory, and, notwithstanding a large outlay on account of public works, and incidental and miscellaneous expenditure not estimated for, there remained a considerable balance in the public chest after payment of all liabilities for the past year.

4. The following is a comparative statement of the cash balances in the public treasury on the 31st December 1857 and the 31st December 1858 respectively.

1857.						1858.				
				£	s.	d.			£	s.	d.
Dec. 31st.	By balance in chest -			2,311	8	6	Dec. 31st.	Balance in chest - -	1,488	19	8
	Deduct arrears of expenditure for 1857 and previous years, paid in 1858 -	£ 718	s. 10	d. 2				Deduct arrears due for 1858 and small amounts of former years, paid in 1859 -	179	1	10
	Less receipts of arrears of 1857 and previous years, received in 1858 -	310	2	2							
				408	8	0					
				1,903	0	6			1,309	17	10

By the above statement it would appear that a smaller balance remained on hand available for succeeding years on the 31st December 1858 than on the 31st December 1857; but taking into consideration the following items, viz[t]:—

	£	s.	d.
Arrears of taxes for 1858 to be recovered, amounting to - -	163	5	7
Of which probably not more than one half may be recovered, say -	80	0	0
Ordnance buildings account to be refunded - - -	27	5	7½
Sundry payments over and above the sums appropriated for 1858 on account of police, police reserve, public buildings, public roads, &c., amounting to - - - - - -	752	10	6
	859	16	1½

	£	s.	d.
The balance consequently, but for the above circumstances, would have been £2,169 13*s.* 11½*d.*, and therefore in favour of 1858, notwithstanding the reduction of the taxes on stores and shops in 1858, amounting to - - - - -	314	0	0
And on sugar estates from 15 to 7½ per cent. - - -	597	0	0
	911	0	0

5. The amount due on the imperial loan is steadily decreasing.

6. The returns furnished for the Blue Book exhibit a slight increase in the number of pupils attending school, but show a diminution in the attendance at churches; but I am disposed to ascribe this apparent decrease to a more accurate computation or estimate, rather than to any real diminution in the number of persons frequenting places of worship.

7. The returns for the schools are made from records, and can be depended upon, whilst those of the attendance at churches and chapels are mere approximate estimates.

8. The inferiority and inefficiency of some of the teachers appointed to the rural schools must in many instances retard the progress of education, for not only is their teaching defective, but the bulk of the labouring class, although devoid of education themselves, readily perceive the want of it in others, and especially in one unqualified to impart its benefits to their children, and who may have been injudiciously selected for the purpose, and the consequence has often been the withdrawal of the children from the schools altogether.

9. With a view to improve the system of tuition, and to provide more efficient schoolmasters, I have recently appointed an inspector of schools in receipt of aid from the public funds; and as the gentleman selected for this office is a highly educated and trained teacher from England, who is in charge of the public school in Scarborough in which pupil teachers are trained and educated, I entertain hopes of effecting material improvement, both as regards teachers and pupils.

10. Before the end of the year I had the satisfaction of closing the old Scarborough gaol, from whence the prisoners were removed to the new prison situated at Fort King George. For many years past the old gaol was condemned as a place of confinement for prisoners, and the necessity of providing better accommodation on a more salubrious site was long insisted upon by Her Majesty's Government. This desirable object has been at length accomplished by the conversion of the military hospital at Fort King George into a common gaol capable of receiving from fifty to sixty prisoners properly classified.

11. The new prison is situated in the immediate vicinity of the chief town; the wards and cells are large, well ventilated, and secure, and the whole building is surrounded by a high wall, so as to prevent all communication with the prisoners.

12. The number of commitments has greatly diminished during the last three years, and the average number of offenders under confinement at any one time now seldom exceeds twelve, so that the accommodation provided affords ample means for prison discipline.

13. A remark made by me in my Report of last year, in regard to the beneficial influence of the "metairie system," as a means of preserving the peace and good order of the community, is fully sustained by the observation of the Inspector of Prisons, who states in his annual report that the decrease in the number of commitments for crimes and offences is "in a very considerable degree to be attributed to the extension of the "metairie cultivation, which is gradually elevating many of the peasantry to a higher "social standing than they could otherwise have attained."

14. The agricultural prospects of the island are encouraging. The crop of last year exceeded that of any crop during the previous twenty years, with a trifling difference of a few hogsheads more in the year 1847, which was, however, an exceptional year throughout the whole of the West Indian colonies. The quantity of sugar made in 1857 surpassed that produced in the previous year by upwards of twelve hundred hogsheads, and the crop of this present year is estimated to exceed that of 1857 in the same proportion, results which incontestably disprove the assertions of those who are too prone to characterize the peasantry as an idle set of people, averse to plantation labour in the cultivation of the cane and the manufacture of the staple product of the colony.

15. The metairie system continues to progress, and must do so, in spite of all the attempts made to discourage it, so long as the rate of daily wages remains so low as it now is.

16. Complaints are still made of the want of labour, especially of that continuous labour so essential for the proper cultivation of a sugar estate, and which it cannot be denied is not to be had from the resident native labourers. I cannot help thinking, however, that something more ought to be accomplished with the existing supply of labour were the labourers stimulated by a higher rate of wages approaching more to the scale

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of remuneration given in most of the other islands; and, irrespective of the original cost of immigration of any kind, I look upon it as simply absurd to offer greater inducements and advantages to immigrant labourers than are given to the peasantry already located in the island.

17. Immigration is the universal cry throughout these islands, and none will deny the manifold benefits to be derived from an augmented population to be employed in the development of the vast resources of the colonies; but the kind of immigration, and the mode and the means of promoting it, are points upon which many differ.

18. My own experience would lead me to give a decided preference to the native free African, or the Creole labourer from the over-populated island of Barbados; and I am clearly of opinion that the entire cost of introducing and providing for the immigrants should be borne by the description of property and by the persons to be directly benefited by their services as agricultural labourers, and that no part whatever of such cost should be thrown upon the community at large, as a charge on the general revenue or otherwise.

19. Recognizing this equitable principle as the basis of legislation in considering the means of providing an immigration fund, it is manifest that in a colony such as this, where so large a portion of the staple is the produce of metairie cultivation, to impose a general export tax upon estates' produce for immigration purposes would not only be highly impolitic, but unjust in the extreme towards the large class of metayers.

20. The metayer, in return for the labour bestowed by him in the cultivation and manufacture of the cane, receives a stipulated share or portion of the produce, which constitutes in fact his labour wages, to tax which for the purpose of introducing immigrants to compete with him in the labour market would obviously be unfair, and diametrically opposed to the principle enunciated, that the party benefited by immigration should bear the entire cost of so improving his property by means of imported labour.

21. A property tax based on the valuation roll, and restricted to sugar producing estates, on which the immigrants should alone be located, together with a fee or stamp upon all indentures or contracts of service entered into between employers and immigrants, would probably be the most simple and effective mode of forming an immigration fund, and one also to which no valid objection could be taken.

22. In regard to immigration itself, it may be deserving of inquiry how far an attempt to obtain immigrants for Tobago is likely to succeed, and on this point strong doubts have been expressed by those most competent to judge. In a recent report the Land and Immigration Commissioners have stated their belief that immigrants are not likely to resort to the small islands, such as this, where the rate of daily wages offered is considerably less than the remuneration given in the larger colonies, and it cannot be doubted but that this difficulty will be greatly enhanced through the influence and local exertions of the colonial agents representing Jamaica, Trinidad, and British Guiana in India.

23. On the question of immigration being lately mooted in the legislature, I thought it proper to submit a minute of my views on the subject, as above set forth, to the Honourable the Executive Committee, and I am happy to say that the principle therein enunciated met with their entire approval and concurrence.

24. An increase of revenue under the customs duties of imports, exports, and tonnage, an extended and improved cultivation, and a natural augmentation of the population, with a diminished calendar of crimes and offences, all indicate a healthy and improving state, to which it is gratifying to add, that the peace of the colony has been undisturbed, the general health has been good, and the expectations of the future are encouraging.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. V. DRYSDALE,

Lieut.-Governor.

His Excellency James Walker, Esq.
&c. &c. &c.

ST. VINCENT.

No. 10.

COPY of DESPATCH from the Officer Administering the Government to the Right Honourable Sir E. B. LYTTON, Bart., M.P.

(No. 25.) Windward Islands, Barbadoes, April 30, 1859.

(Received June 2, 1859.)

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward a Report from Lieutenant-Governor Eyre, purporting to accompany the Blue Book of St. Vincent for 1858. No. 38. 20 April 1859.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JAMES WALKER.

The Right Hon. Sir E. B. Lytton, Bart., M.P.
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure in No. 10.

Government House, St. Vincent, April 20, 1859.

SIR,

MY Reports, transmitted with the Blue Books for the years 1856 and 1857, pointed out the gradual but progressive improvement of St. Vincent; the successful working of the arrangements completed in 1856 for the repayment of the large public debt which I found existing but altogether unprovided for when I came to the Colony in the latter part of 1854; the advance which was taking place towards a satisfactory adjustment of the Revenue and Expenditure, and the gradual provision which was being made for many services of the highest utility and importance.

2. In transmitting the Blue Book for 1858 I am happy to be able to state that this gratifying progression towards a more sound and healthy state of things was still continued during that year, and that the position and prospects of the Colony are now equally favourable and promising.

Revenue.

The revenue of 1858 was 20,873*l.* 15*s.* 2½*d.*; that of 1857, 19,767*l.* 14*s.* 10*d.* There has consequently been an increase of 1,106*l.* 0*s.* 4½*d.*, due principally to larger receipts having been attained under the Additional Exportation Act, that Act having only come into operation quite at the close of 1857, but having been in force throughout the whole of 1858. An increase has also taken place in the receipts from tonnage dues, owing to a larger amount of shipping; and from licences, owing to a larger number of public houses having been established. Special sums have also accrued from the sale of public stores, and from the receipts of a bazaar; the latter amount being received in exchange for a perpetual annuity to a charity and on condition that the principal be applied in the erection of a public wharf.

On the other hand a less amount has been paid for ad valorem duties on imports; the tax having been reduced from ten to five per cent. A smaller sum has also been received from England in aid of the Colonial resources. In 1856 this amount was 2,770*l.*; in 1857 it was 2,320*l.*; and in 1858 only 1,870*l.*; during the last two years, therefore, Great Britain has been relieved from payments amounting to 900*l.* per annum.

Expenditure.

The expenditure for 1858 was 19,011*l.* 18*s.* 4½*d.*; that for 1857, 20,247*l.* 4*s.* 5½*d.*, being a diminution of 1,235*l.* 6*s.* 1*d.* The decrease is chiefly due to a less amount having been required on account of the public debt, on account of special justices, and to a total reduction of the engineers' department, which took place in 1857.

On the other hand a large increase of expenditure has taken place for education, for roads, for military, for hospitals, and some amount in connexion with immigration.

Deducting from the gross expenditure of the year (19,011*l.* 18*s.* 4½*d.*), the amount paid on account of liabilities incurred prior to 1855 (2,624*l.* 13*s.* 8*d.*), the actual expenditure of the Colony on account of 1858 was 16,387*l.* 4*s.* 8½*d.*; in 1857 the nett expenditure after the corresponding deductions was 16,476*l.* 6*s.* 11½*d.*, showing the true difference of current expenditure in the respective years to have been 89*l.* 2*s.* 3*d.*, less in 1858 than in 1857.

Public Debt.

The total debt of the Colony which had accumulated up to the close of 1854, and was wholly unprovided for when I assumed the administration of the Government, amounted to no less a sum than 7132*l.* 8*s.* 3*d.*, as shown by a return marked No. 3, which accompanied my Blue Book Report for 1854, dated 2nd May 1855, No. 52.

The last remaining portion of this debt, amounting to 2556*l.* 8*s.*, was paid off during 1858, and when the year closed the Colony was free from debt or liability of any kind, and with a clear balance of upwards of 4,000*l.* in the treasury, available for immigration and other purposes.

ST. VINCENT.

Militia.

There is no Militia, but a Volunteer Corps of about 70 men, under a captain and two lieutenants. It was intended to have raised an Artillery Corps, and two troops of Cavalry; but the necessary Acts having only passed through the Assembly lapsed when the year terminated, and the additional provision necessary to be made for the security of the Island is still under consideration.

Legislation.

Ten Acts have been passed during 1858. The most important of these are an Act making better provision for the Colonial Hospital, an Act to provide for vacancies in the office of stipendiary magistrates, an Act granting an annual sum of money in perpetuity to a charity, in exchange for a sum of money realised at a bazaar, and an Act to amend the Immigration Act.

Political Franchise.

Remains the same. Six elections took place during the year, for the return of six members to the Assembly, at which fifty-nine electors polled, being an average of not quite ten electors to each member returned; a convincing proof of how little interest is taken by the people themselves in their political rights and privileges, especially as three of the elections were for the town of Kingston.

Council and Assembly.

Are the same as in the previous year, with the exception of a few individual changes. Both are working in perfect harmony with the Executive and with each other.

The Executive Council also remains the same, and is composed of five members from the Legislative Council, and five members from the Assembly, who sit with the Governor, and discharge the duties of a Privy Council.

An Act has recently been passed (April 1859), calling into existence the same form of responsible government as exists in Jamaica, by creating a paid Executive Committee, consisting of one member from the Council and two members from the Assembly, who, in conjunction with the Governor, are to administer the finances, and undertake generally the duties heretofore devolving upon joint committees of the two branches of the Legislature. It is hoped that this important change in the constitution will lead to a better and more economical administration of the Public Finances, to a more prompt and regular discharge of the Public business, and to a degree of responsibility which did not previously exist.

Population Returns.

No census taken since 1851 and that not to be relied upon.

Imports and Exports.

	Imports.	Exports.
The total value in 1858 was - - -	£160,948	£181,934
„ 1857 - - -	185,203	220,956
Decrease	£24,255	Decrease £39,022

Being a very considerable dimunition of value both in the imports and in the exports.

In the imports this decrease has taken place chiefly in asses, cattle, horses, candles, coals, cordage, fish, flour, pork, hoops, lumber, staves, shingles, soap, linen, cotton, woollen and other manufactured goods.

But there has been an increased importation of manures, machinery, mules, ale, beef, bread, butter, cheese, hams, lard, leather, meal, rice, &c.

The fluctuations in the value of the imports depend in a great measure upon the varying values at which articles of the same kind are entered at different periods, as well as upon the quantities stored in warehouse at the commencement of the year.

If there is an excess of importation one year there is generally a corresponding diminution during the next.

The decrease in the value of exports does not arise from a decreased production but from the diminished value of the staple articles grown in the colony. Thus the exports were:—

Note, In the Blue Book for 1857 the number of pounds is put down erroneously at 15,669,048, through mistake in reducing 327 tierces at 8 cwt. each instead of 11 cwt.

Year.	Sugar.		Rum.	Molasses.	Arrowroot.	Cotton.	Cocoa.
	lbs.	hhds.	Gallons.	Gallons.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.
In 1858	15,696,456	equal to 8,759	203,514	92,236	1,712,740	38,837	19,360
In 1857	15,778,920*	„ 8,805	206,836	183,612	1,352,230	21,600	15,621
	−82,464	„ −46	−3,332	−91,376	+360,510	+17,231	+3,739

Showing an apparent deficiency of 82,464lbs. or 46 hogsheads in the sugar crop but as fifty hogsheads were lost in 1858 by the wreck of a loaded drogher on the windward coast the crop of sugar in 1858 may be said to have been as nearly as possible the same as in 1857.

Owing to the fall in the price of sugars the entered values are, however, very different.

In 1857, 8,805 hogsheads were entered at 150,038*l.*, but in 1858 8,759 hogsheads were entered at only 126,852*l.* being a decrease in value at the rate of about fifty-six shillings per hogshead.

The quantity of rum and molasses made in 1858 was less than in 1857. Probably the state of the weather and the age at which the canes are cut may cause a considerable variation in the quantity of offal produced in different years, although the crop of sugar may be the same. The values of rum and molasses were also higher in 1857 than in 1858.

In arrowroot a large increase of exportation took place in 1858, amounting to no less than 360,510lbs. above the quantity exported in 1857. There was also a small increase in the growth of cotton and cocoa.

On the whole therefore the quantity of produce raised in the Island in 1858 may be regarded as fully equal to that raised in 1857, but from the fall in prices its value was much less.

Agriculture.

There can be no doubt but that during the year 1858 the Colony sustained considerable loss of produce, owing to the insufficiency of the labour on very many estates to cut the canes and manufacture them at the proper time when the yield of sugar would have been the largest. Little therefore could be done in the way of extending agricultural operations. Towards the close of the year about 300 labourers were obtained from the redundant population of Barbadoes, whose services may possibly tell favourably in the produce returns of 1859 and 1860, but as a body they were of an inferior class and not well suited for field labour.

Sanitary State.

The island has been perfectly healthy and free from any epidemic or general sickness of any description.

Crime.

The criminal statistics for 1858 vary very little from those of 1857, either in point of numbers or in reference to the character of the crimes committed.

In 1858 there were received into goal for trial before the Supreme Court 21 persons, of whom 11 were convicted; in 1857 there were received for trial 21 persons, of whom 13 were convicted.

In 1858 there were received into gaol, under sentences of magistrates, 129 persons, exclusive of debtors; in 1857 there were received 126: of debtors there were committed in 1858, 44; in 1857, 36.

Education.

In 1858 the Colony was beginning to feel relieved from the pressure of its heavy debt (contracted prior to 1855), and was consequently enabled to expend a larger sum in providing for education; about 1,000*l.* were thus applied, many schools were re-established, others put upon a better footing, and a general inspector was appointed for the whole. The number of scholars attending day schools consequently increased very greatly in 1858. In the Church of England schools this number was double what it was in 1857, and the scholars were much better attended to. In the Wesleyan schools the number of scholars was augmented about one-half more; but, as reported in my Blue Book Report for 1857, their schools being greatly aided by funds derived from England, had never fallen into the same state of decay as those of the Church of England. Amongst the Roman Catholics, I believe, little has been done, since their minister has sent in no report.

3. I append a copy of my address at the opening of the Legislature in January 1859, as showing the general state and prospects of the Colony, and its financial position at the close of the year 1858.

His Excellency the Administrator of the Government,
Windward Islands.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. EYRE.

Sub-Enclosure.

SAINT VINCENT.

ADDRESS OF LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR EYRE TO THE LEGISLATURE ON OPENING THE SESSION ON TUESDAY, THE 4TH JANUARY, 1859.

"*Mr. President and Members of the honourable Board of Legislative Council.*

"*Mr. Speaker and Members of the honourable House of Assembly.*

"I have much pleasure in again meeting you, to open, for the fifth time since my arrival amongst you, the session of the year, and it is with feelings of no little gratification and thankfulness, that I am enabled to do so under such different and more favourable circumstances than those under which I had the honour of addressing you for the first time.

"Coming to the Colony at a period of much distress and embarrassment, it has been my privilege to see that distress relieved, and that embarrassment removed, whilst the dark clouds which then threatened the future of Saint Vincent have dispersed, and given place to brighter and more cheering realities, of which a steady and progressive improvement in all its circumstances and prospects is a prominent and most promising feature.

The usual excellent sanitary state of the Colony has been mercifully continued to us. Our last harvest, though less than we expected, was fully equal to that of the previous year, and the unusually favourable weather which we have enjoyed during the whole of the late growing season, encourages us to hope that the crop now about to be reaped may prove a still more abundant one."

ST. VINCENT. "For all these blessings—past, present, and prospective, we owe a deep debt of gratitude to the great Giver of all good.

"*Mr. Speaker and Members of the honourable House of Assembly.*

"The usual returns relative to the Revenue and Expenditure, will be laid before you, from which you will gather that the finances of the Colony are in a most satisfactory condition.

"It is a subject of much gratification to me, to be able to announce to you that the last instalment of the large debt (on account of liabilities incurred prior to 1855) which for so long a time crippled your power of providing for many objects of public utility and importance, is now finally paid off, and the Colony is once again free from all debt or liability of any kind.

"The satisfaction which this circumstance naturally occasions is also largely augmented by the consideration that the liquidation of the debt has proceeded during the past twelve months coincidently with a renewed provision for many services of the highest interest and importance.

"Amongst these I may more particularly mention that during the year just ended, the Hospital has been restored and re-opened; the Schools have been re-established; one of the rectory houses and some of the other Public Buildings have been repaired; signal lights have been established for the mail packets; the fire engines have been placed in a state of renewed efficiency, and many other useful objects have been attended to and attained.

"But, independently of those services which have actually been carried out, large funds are now in hand, set apart for special purposes—as for the building a bridge over the Calliaqua river; for the compilation and publication of a new edition of the laws; for the erection of a wharf on the shore of Kingstown harbour; and above all for the revival of immigration so soon as a field, from whence suitable labour can be obtained, shall be open to the Colony.

"The gross balance in the Treasurer's hands on the 1st January 1859, after deducting salaries and all other claims and liabilities due up to the 31st December 1858, was no less than 4,023*l.* 3*s.* 7*d.*, of which 2,447*l.* 7*s.* 11*d.* is applicable to Immigration, an amount which will be further increased during the current year by about 4,347*l.* more. It is a matter of much congratulation also, that whilst the Colonial finances have thus attained this satisfactory state in the short space of four years from the period of their being involved in extreme depression and embarrassment, no excessive or burdensome taxation has been resorted to, but St. Vincent has been and is one of the most lightly taxed of all the British Colonies.

"I confidently rely, therefore, upon your continuing to make adequate and liberal provision for the exigencies of the Public service during the current year.

"*Mr. President and Members of the honourable Board of Legislative Council.*

"*Mr. Speaker and Members of the honourable House of Assembly.*

"I thank you for the co-operation and support which I have received from you during the past year, and I earnestly trust that the same harmony and good feeling which have hitherto characterised our intercourse with each other, will still subsist between us for the future, and that thus all three branches of the Legislature, may continue to combine, unitedly, in endeavouring to promote, to the utmost, the public good. I would particularly invite your early attention to the question of placing the management of the public roads upon a better and more satisfactory footing; to a renewed consideration of the best arrangements for securing both the defence and the internal tranquillity of the Island, subjects which have already largely occupied your time, and were approaching maturity when the close of the last session caused all measures, not actually completed, to lapse; and to the determining, with as little delay as possible, the best means of procuring an additional supply of labour, now that the Immigration Fund, actually in hand, is sufficiently large to justify your commencing the importation of Coolies from India, should no other more eligible field for obtaining immigrants appear to you to offer.

"Upon a speedy and successful solution of this last most difficult question, I feel that much of the future prosperity and progress of Saint Vincent must necessarily depend, for there can be no doubt but that the Colony sustained a considerable loss of produce during the past year, owing to the insufficiency of the labour on very many estates to cut the canes, and manufacture them, at the proper time when the yield of sugar would have been the largest.

"Commending these and other subjects affecting the general interests, which will naturally suggest themselves to you, to your most serious and careful consideration, I earnestly pray that your deliberations may be directed to the advancement of the prosperity of the Colony, and of the welfare and happiness of the people, and that God's blessing may rest upon our united labors."

(Signed) E. EYRE, Lieutenant-Governor.

Council Chamber, 4th January 1859.

ST. LUCIA.

No. 11.

COPY of DESPATCH from the Officer Administering the Government to the Right Hon. Sir E. B. LYTTON, Bart., M.P.

(No. 37.)

Windward Islands, Barbados,
June 22, 1859.

SIR, (Received July 20, 1859.)

I HAVE the honour to forward the St. Lucia Blue Book for 1858, with the Report which accompanied it from the Administrator of the Government.

2. Mr. Breen has confined himself to circumstances occurring within the year, and he is, strictly speaking, correct in doing so. But on several points it would be a pity that it should go forth to the public, and be received for months to come as the latest report of the condition of St. Lucia. No. 73. May 25, 1859.

3. In regard, for example, to immigration, which has engaged much attention, and on which the future welfare of the colony is supposed greatly to depend, it might be added that the question is no longer in an unsatisfactory state, and that since the close of the past year two arrivals of Coolies have taken place, free of the sickness and mortality which have marked many of the immigrations to these Colonies.

4. The island is stated to be without a militia, but the force has recently been called again into existence under circumstances which will probably revive and secure its efficiency.

5. Under the all-important head of education, it should be known that a new board was formed at the commencement of the year under the personal supervision of the Governor-in-Chief, who had sanguine hopes of its success. In St. Lucia the difference of creed and the limited means of the Island have made it no easy question to deal with. The new board was formed into two separate Committees, Protestant and Roman Catholic, to whom respectively was assigned the appropriation of the monies which should be allotted for educational purposes to the inhabitants of either persuasion.

The Legislative Council immediately thereafter placed a liberal sum at the disposal of the board, by whom it was allotted in equal proportions to the Protestant and Roman Catholic Committees of the Board.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JAMES WALKER.

The Right Hon. Sir E. B. LYTTON, Bart., M.P.,
&c. &c. &c.

(No. 73. Executive.) Enclosure in No. 11.

SIR, St. Lucia, May 25 1859. Enclosure in No. 11.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to Your Excellency, in duplicate, the Blue Book for the year 1858, together with the usual abstracts and comparative returns.

Revenue.

2. The estimated revenue for 1858 was	£11,866	0	0
The nett revenue	13,191	9	8
Excess	£1,325	9	8

This excess occurs under almost every item of revenue, but chiefly Imports and Rum Tax. The excess in the former item was 444*l.* 13*s.* 4½*d.*, and in the latter 302*l.* 15*s.* 5½*d.*

3. Nearly one-half of the revenue in this Island is derived from the duty on rum, under the excise system which has been in operation since 1852. The amount collected annually since that period is as follows:—

1852	£1,753	5	0
1853	3,718	4	7
1854	4,838	13	6
1855	4,286	1	4
1856	4,873	16	6
1857	5,058	15	4
1858	5,002	15	5

ST. LUCIA.

Expenditure.

4. The estimated expenditure for 1858 was - - -	£10,879	3	4
The actual expenditure was - - - -	12,076	18	5
Excess - - - - -	£1,197	15	1

5. This excess will be found chiefly under the following heads: "Out-Door Relief to the Poor," "Gaol Expenses," "Poor Asylum," "Revenue Service," "Drawbacks and Refund of Duties," and "Miscellaneous;" and is ascribable, first, to the fluctuating nature of those heads of expenditure; and, secondly, to the circumstance that the items are usually stated in the Estimate at a much lower figure than the average expense in each case. An attempt has been made to rectify this in the Tax Ordinance for 1859.

Public Debts.

6. A loan of 3,000*l.* sterling, redeemable in 20 years, was raised in 1852 under the provisions of the Act of the Imperial Parliament, 11 & 12 Vict., cap. 130, entitled "An Act for guaranteeing the "Interest on such Loan, not exceeding Five hundred thousand Pounds, as may be raised by the British "Colonies on the Continent of South America, in the West Indies, and the Mauritius, for certain "Purposes."

7. This loan was applied to the repair of the public roads, and the whole amount was expended in 1853. The payment of the interest and sinking fund is provided for by a tax upon all sugar, rum, and molasses exported from the Colony.

8. In 1854 a loan of 15,000*l.* sterling, also redeemable in 20 years, was stipulated on behalf of the Colony, for the purpose of promoting Cooley immigration; and provision is made for the payment of the interest and sinking fund by an additional tax upon sugar, rum, and molasses. No part of this loan was required in 1858.

Public Works.

9. The public works executed during the year 1858 are:—

A wall to complete the enclosure to the gaol of Castries. The gaol was surrounded by a wall of sufficient height, except on the western side, where it was separated by an iron railing from the Queen's Yard. This railing encroached by several feet upon the limits of the gaol, and from its want of elevation afforded facilities of escape to the prisoners. The executive having obtained from the Ordnance Department a concession of the portion of land encroached upon, caused the enclosure of the gaol to be completed by the erection of a wall 121 feet long and 12 feet high.

A gallery to the court house in Castries. The building used as a court house, and which, in other respects, is well adapted to the purpose, afforded no accommodation for the witnesses and prisoners during the sittings of the Court of Assize. This inconvenience has been removed by the construction of a gallery 20 feet long and 40 feet wide, built of pitch pine, and raised on a wall 11 feet high. The lower apartment is appropriated to the prisoners, and the upper one to the witnesses.

An hospital for the reception of the Yaws patients. The thatched hut used for this purpose was found too small, and there was no separate accommodation for the sexes. The building erected to replace it is of hard wood, and is 38 feet long by 19 feet wide, with a gallery in front. The males and females are in separate divisions.

10. A mole on the river of Ause Laraye. This river, where it intersects the high road near the town of Ause Laraye, had become unfordable for some years, and the construction of a mole was found necessary to enable travellers to pass with safety.

11. In the course of the year 18 bridges, of more or less extent, were constructed on the road leading from Morne Fortuné to the bottom of Roseau Valley.

Roads.

12. The public roads in St. Lucia extend to a total length of 103 miles. In many places they pass over precipices and ravines, and the task of keeping them in repair is attended with considerable difficulty and expense. Until 1851 the roads were kept in repair by means of the *corvée* or unpaid labour of the inhabitants. In that year, with the view of making an experiment of paid labour, a loan of 3,000*l.* sterling was obtained from the Imperial Government; but the whole amount having been expended in 1853, the roads were left unrepaired from that period till the end of 1857. At that time the inhabitants, of every class, having manifested a desire to see the old system restored, an ordinance to that effect was submitted to the Legislative Council, and passed into law. That ordinance has since received Her Majesty's confirmation.

13. In the meantime, and as it was uncertain whether the new measure would meet with the sanction of the Government, I took advantage of the funds in the hands of the treasurer to the credit of roads and bridges, and, with the concurrence of the Board of Road Commissioners, I caused repairs to be effected to different portions of road which had become impassable. The road from Ause Canot to Praslin had to be abandoned, and a new road formed, and before the end of June there was scarcely a portion of road in the island that had not undergone some necessary repair.

Education.

14. The year 1858 was marked by an attempt to establish a Normal school in St. Lucia, with the view of extending the benefits of education to such of the inhabitants as might object to place their children at the Mico schools. For this purpose the Board of Education proposed to employ a competent teacher at a salary of 300*l.*, besides 50*l.* for a house. The gentleman selected was Mr. W. R. Sutton, who arrived in St. Lucia in September 1857.

15. Mr. Sutton opened his Normal school in February 1858, and after repeated attempts to induce young men of intelligence and respectability to become pupils, he was compelled to abandon the design and close the school. A private school, established by Mr. Sutton for boys in the upper classes of society, met with no better success.

16. In connexion with Mr. Sutton's attempts, the Rev. Mr. Lecailtel, curé of Castries, opened a free school for boys, with the aid of a grant of 40*l.* from the Board of Education. The other educational establishments continued on the same footing as in former years. The attendance at the Mico schools in 1858 was 535 boys and 173 girls; at the infant schools, 133 boys and 64 girls; at the convent school, 18 boys and 42 girls; at the free school attached to the latter, 18 boys and 152 girls; and at Abbé Lecailtel's school, 150 boys.

Ministers of Religion.

17. There are two Protestant clergymen in St. Lucia, and ten of the Roman Catholic persuasion, including a vicar-general. The latter are all foreigners, although the salary allowed to the clergy was voted on the understanding that every effort should be made to obtain the services of British subjects. On the successor of Archbishop Spaccapertra will devolve the duty of providing a remedy for this state of things.

Legislation.

18. During the year 1858 six Ordinances were enacted by the Legislative Council, of which the following are the titles:—

"No. 1. 12th January 1858.—An Ordinance to provide for the establishment and maintenance of a court of appeal."

"No. 2. 8th March 1858.—An Ordinance for instituting trial by jury in civil actions for damages."

"No. 3. 21st July 1858.—An Ordinance for fixing rates and duties to be raised for the public service of the year 1859, and for appropriating the same."

"No. 4. 21st July 1858.—An Ordinance to amend the Ordinance No. 7 of the 13th February 1851, entitled 'An Ordinance to raise funds for promoting the education of the inhabitants of this island, and for facilitating their means of intercourse by the construction of roads and bridges,' in so far as regards the duty imposed upon the export of logwood from this island, as fixed by Schedule B. to the said Ordinance annexed."

"No. 5. 21st July 1858.—An Ordinance to amend the Ordinance No. 7 of the 2nd May 1851, entitled 'An Ordinance for promoting African immigration into the colony of St. Lucia, and the industry of the immigrants.'"

"No. 6. 31st August 1858.—An Ordinance for fixing rates and duties to be raised for the public service of the year 1859, and for appropriating the same."

19. Of these Ordinances by far the most important is No. 1, the object of which is to carry out the long-cherished scheme of a Circuit Court of Appeal for the Windward Islands; No. 2 was disallowed; and No. 3, having been recommitted, was reproduced in No. 6.

Militia.

20. The St. Lucia militia, organized in virtue of a local enactment dated the 11th October 1854, had attained before the end of 1856 a high state of discipline and efficiency; and on more than one occasion it had received the well-merited encomiums of the military commandants and of the officers charged with its drilling and instruction. These claims to distinction, however, were not destined to be of long duration; and in the course of the year 1857, through the opposition of some and the lukewarmness of others, the discipline of the corps became so relaxed, that it was deemed advisable to pass an Ordinance to disembody the force and relieve it from active service. In this state of inactivity it continued during the year 1858.

Prisoners—Crime.

21. The number of prisoners confined in the Royal Gaol of Castries during the year 1858 was 288, showing a slight increase as compared with 1857. There were 77 cases of sickness during the year, and but one death; a circumstance alike creditable to the gaoler and the medical attendant. Among the convictions there was one for setting fire to a house, some person being therein; but as the crime was unattended with fatal consequences to the inmates, the sentence was commuted to ten years' penal servitude. The last instance of a capital sentence being carried into execution in this Colony occurred in 1842.

Immigration.

22. I have nothing satisfactory to state under this head. The Colony had passed the necessary laws and raised funds to provide for the introduction of Indian labourers; but none were received in 1858. Assurances, however, were given, that one or two ships with Cooly immigrants might be expected in 1859.

Agriculture.

23. The remunerative price of sugar continued to exercise its stimulating influence during the year 1858 upon the cultivation of the great staple of the Colony. Owing, however, to the limited supply of labour and to the inducement afforded to the peasantry to work on their own account, the extension of cane cultivation was chiefly visible upon the small portions of land belonging to the labouring class. The number of little plantations called into existence of late years is considerable, and in many instances the owners are known to have realized large sums by the sale of their produce.

ST. LUCIA.

24. I think it right to repeat, under this head, the opinion expressed by me in last year's report respecting the cause of the failure of certain estates, as compared with others in nearly similar circumstances. This failure is generally observable with regard to the estates of absentees, and may be attributed to the fact that the agents and attorneys employed to conduct those estates do not take, and cannot be expected to take, the same interest in the working of them as the owners would, if they were on the spot. This difference is apparent even in the case of owners residing in the Colony, but whose other occupations prevent them from exercising a daily and uninterrupted supervision over matters of detail.

I have, &c.,
HENRY H. BREEN,
Administrator of the Government.

His Excellency James Walker, Esq.,
Administrator of the General Government, &c.

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No. 12.

COPY of DESPATCH from the Officer administering the Government to the Right Hon. Sir E. BULWER LYTTON, Bart., M.P.

(No. 54.) Antigua, June 8, 1859.
(Received June 30, 1859.)

SIR,

UPON my assuming the administration of the general government of the Leeward Islands on the 2d ultimo, I found that the Blue Book of Antigua for the year 1858 was not yet transmitted to England, or, in fact, completed.

2. I have now the honour to forward it; but as it relates to a period during which I had no connexion with the colony, it could scarcely be desirable that I should personally comment upon its contents; and I therefore thought it better to direct the Colonial Secretary, Mr. Anthony Musgrave, who has been resident in the island for some years, and under whose supervision the Blue Book is prepared, to draw up a report upon it.

3. This report is now enclosed, and will be found an able, comprehensive, and interesting document.

4. There are many points of great importance touched upon by Mr. Musgrave; but as some of these will become the subjects of separate despatches I will not enter upon them now.

5. In reference to the 51st paragraph of Mr. Musgrave's report, relating to a possible change in the constitution of the colony so as to assimilate it to the form established in Jamaica five years ago and more recently adopted at St. Christopher in this command, and at St. Vincent and Tobago in the Windward Islands government, I may remark, that since my arrival at Antigua I have lost no opportunity of discussing this important subject with influential members of both branches of the Legislature, and of pointing out to them the advantages which may be expected to accrue to the public service from making the suggested change.

In these discussions I have ever found a ready acknowledgment of the evils which flow from the present system of executive administration, and an expressed willingness to apply the necessary remedy.

I see no reason to doubt, therefore, but that when the more pressing questions of putting the finances into a more satisfactory condition, and of placing the colony in a better state of defence, shall have first been disposed of, the Legislature will readily and favourably entertain the question of amending its constitution.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. EYRE.

The Right Hon. Sir E. B. Lytton, Bart., M.P.,
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure in No. 12.

Enclosure in No. 12.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
June 7, 1859.

SIR,

IN accordance with your Excellency's request, I have the honour to report upon the Blue Book of last year.

2. I regret that it has not been possible to forward these returns at an earlier period. The lateness in obtaining the voluminous import and export, and other tables furnished by the revenue and treasury department, has prevented the more rapid completion of the

book. But while assigning this, the true reason, I am bound to observe as within my knowledge that the insufficiency of assistance in that office, and the amount of labour falling peculiarly into the first quarter of the year, remove from the treasurer any of the blame which would attach to avoidable delay.

Revenue and Expenditure.

3. The abstract of revenue and expenditure, standing rightly foremost as a faithful indicator of the advance or decline of the colony, shows an excess on the total revenue of 5,843*l.* 7*s.* 10*d.* The temporary aid to the fixed revenue in the issue of treasury bills to the amount of 4,569*l.* 14*s.* 2*d.* in 1858 had nearly an equivalent in 1857 on incidental receipts, in the sum obtained by the sale of arms and munitions of war in an excess on savings bank deposits, and from an amount paid up in anticipation of bonds due to the colony for property sold under the Loan Act. These receipts formed advantages to the current service of 1857 not enjoyed by 1858. After deducting these, the balance left as casual aid from the Treasury bills, with the minor differences under usual heads, only accounts for the sum of 793*l.* 14*s.* 1*d.*; and nearly the whole of the increase (5,049*l.* 13*s.* 9*d.*) is found to have been given by the chief sources of regular revenue, the import, export, and tonnage duties.

4. The product of those taxes for 1857 being fully equal to an average, and the advance for the last year being more than 19 per cent., I think may be regarded as affording evidence of the material prosperity of the colony during that period.

5. Had not the expenditure been largely increased for the same time, the balance in favour of the finances would have enabled the colony to meet with confidence the ordinary requirements for 1859, without recourse to any further taxation. But 1858, even more than its predecessor, has been fruitful in unusual drafts upon the public resources, unprovided for, as they should have been, either at the time or subsequently, by any special fund. In the year which is the subject of these remarks the chief cause for such outlay has arisen from the riots of March. The expenditure for the common gaol was augmented by 1,016*l.*, from the number of prisoners to be fed; 1,643*l.* had been added to the drafts for the police force, by the establishment of the horse police; and 1,474*l.* was disbursed as compensation to parties whose property had been injured; making together, from these items alone, an addition to ordinary expenditure of 4,133*l.*, for which no provision of any kind had specially been made.

6. If to these be added the amount of 3,086*l.* for the redemption of Treasury bills, under the Act of 14th January 1856, and 560*l.* for the purchase of land contiguous to Government House, and the expenses under the Weights and Measures Act, it will be found that the other heads of expenditure for 1858, excepting one or two trifling items, do not differ very greatly in amount or character from those of previous years.

Public Debt.

7. All local debentures falling due have been promptly liquidated; and the colony, as heretofore, has punctually remitted the usual instalments, with interest, of the loan from Her Majesty's Government.

8. Of this obligation, originally 100,000*l.*, there remained due from the colony the sum of 45,000*l.* at the commencement of 1859. The larger portion of this will be obtained from the private borrowers, to whom it was advanced on the public security; but 18,587*l.* 16*s.* 3*d.* now stands as a charge against the general revenue of the island.

9. 20,000*l.* was appropriated by the local government to the re-erection of churches and public buildings, which should properly have been liquidated to a much greater extent at this date. But, as I before have had occasion to explain to your Excellency, the first instalment from the colony to the Government did not fall due until the 1st August 1846, while that from the private borrowers to the colony was payable on the 1st May 1845. The colony, therefore, received two instalments from its debtors before being called upon to meet its engagement for the first to the Imperial Government. It thus was for the time in possession of a surplus fund, of which a portion was appropriated to repay the first liability from the public chest on account of the 20,000*l.* used for colonial purposes. The advantage so gained at starting was operative for some years, and it was not until 1853 that any call was made upon the general revenue of the colony in respect of this public debt. The individual borrowers, after paying the instalment for 1859, will owe but six to the colony, and their liability will therefore be extinguished in 1865. The treasury chest now contributes, besides interest, an annual amount of 1,219*l.* 13*s.* 9*d.*, required to make good the difference between the aggregate instalments from private borrowers and the sum of 5,000*l.* paid annually to Government under the extension of terms in 1854. Seven of these amounts will but cover 8,537*l.* 16*s.* 3*d.* of

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the total colonial liability. There will remain an amount of 10,000*l.* to be entirely provided for from the public resources, being exactly the amount of the first instalment (10 per cent. upon the original loan as payable before the relaxation of the contract), of which the colony have heretofore derived the advantage in the manner which I have attempted to describe.

10. This is a liability only postponed for a period already ascertained. It will have to be provided for in equal moieties in the years 1866–67, according to the engagement of the colony to the Government; and it is high time that arrangements should be considered for meeting this responsibility, in addition to the ordinary pecuniary requirements of the colony.

Works.

11. Besides the usual work on streets and highways, upon which a somewhat larger sum has been expended than in the previous year, the completion of the repairs of the Court House and Public Library, and the continuation of those at Government House, form the only services of the nature of public works for 1858. These buildings have absorbed the sum of 2,140*l.* 18*s.* in the last year.

12. The large amount of 3,400*l.* has already been expended on the Government House, and work, necessary about the premises, is still uncompleted. It was by some considered wiser to erect a new house on another site than to incur so great an outlay for a building which, from long neglect, required, in portions, almost to be rebuilt. But the situation of Government House is, in fact, the highest point in the town of St. John's, excepting only that of the cathedral, and was proved to be entirely free from damp by the condition of the earth when the ground floors were taken up. The land slopes from it to the south, where most of the better residences in the town are situated. To the north and east it is surrounded by open space; and on the south it is proposed, by purchase or rent of the land, to remove a cluster of small tenancies inconveniently near to the inclosure. One considerable plot of land, with the buildings thereon, has already been bought; and it is believed that there will not be difficulty in obtaining the remainder of what it is thought desirable to acquire. It was alleged, not without reason, that, expensive as the repairs to the old house might be, the cost of constructing a new one, suitable in size and accommodations for the residence of a governor's family, would certainly be more than double. The labour and outlay necessary for digging foundations, making cisterns, erecting stables, servants' rooms, and the out-offices necessary for a large establishment, can only be fully appreciated by one who has had the misfortune to build a house in one of these colonies. Most of these were already existent, requiring comparatively only trifling reparation. Besides this, it was said that there is no land belonging to the Government or the colony suitable for the site of a new house in the vicinity of the town. The only situation suggested is private property, consisting of bare land, without even a single shrub to enliven its dreariness; and in erecting a new house on such a spot every part of its appurtenances must have been a new creation; not even the old materials from the former building being available to any extent.

13. It was under these circumstances, having in view the existing pressure upon the finances of the colony, that the Legislature did not feel themselves justified in incurring an expense probably not far short of 10,000*l.*

Militia.

14. It was attempted by Act No. 1108, of 24th April, to establish a volunteer corps, comprising cavalry, artillery, and infantry, together intended to be 450 strong. It was soon found that any hope to raise a sufficient number by a voluntary system was vain. During the riots in March, persons of all ranks had come forward with laudable alacrity; and it was indeed noted how rapidly a kind of organization for the impromptu levies was effected. While service was required on that special occasion it was cheerfully rendered. But equal readiness was not shown subsequently to volunteer for the continuous labour and expenditure of time necessary to create an effective corps of any arm of the service. The employers of many in the classes from which the best material could be obtained, not unnaturally, objected to the withdrawal of the time and attention of clerks and subordinates from ordinary avocations, when such a contribution for the public good was left optional. The earlier volunteers found themselves made in some measure the subject of jest by those who had not joined, and who, to cover their own unwillingness to accept the trouble, were apt to endeavour to cast ridicule upon the whole system; and not a few abstained upon principle from entering upon what must entail some expense, not lightly to be incurred with incomes affording but a mere pittance for subsistence.

15. Out of this grew a feeling, even in the minds of those who had already volunteered, that some measure should be adopted to make the service a compulsory duty. It was believed that very many would willingly obey such a law, who, without it, did not feel justified in running counter to the wishes of their employers, in voluntarily incurring expenses they were ill able to meet, or in exposing themselves to the imputation of vanity in the wish to amuse themselves by attempt at military display. In a word, it was believed that the only way to accomplish what was desired by the Assembly and inculcated by the Secretary of State was to treat the subject as one of serious necessity.

16. Twice, however, were Bills sent up from the Assembly to the Council, and rejected by the latter body, without any attempt to accommodate the differences in the views of the two houses; and I fear that the measure was altogether unpalatable to some members of the Council. At last, on the 24th April in this year, an Act was passed which will enable the formation of corps of the originally intended strength. Annexed is an abstract of the present constitution of the force. The artillery and infantry now serving are the original volunteers, the additional levies under the late Act not having been yet called out, the rules to be approved by the legislature having only just been confirmed. The mode for augmenting the cavalry being different from that adopted in respect of the other arms, that force has already been brought up to nearly its full strength.

Legislation.

17. Besides the Volunteer Militia Act, ten Bills have passed the Legislature during the year 1858; all, however, much previously needed, in fact having their origin in the riots of March, except three. These latter are, a Liquor Licence Act, amending and consolidating the previous law relating to the retail of spirits, wines, and malt liquors; an Act for the regulation of weights and measures, which was much required, and has now established the standards of Great Britain; and an Act to extend the operations of the laws of Antigua to the Island of Barbuda. Upon this last the pleasure of the Crown has not yet been signified; and it is not therefore in operation. It is intended to cure the evils which have from time to time been experienced from the anomalous position of the Island of Barbuda, which is in fact a dependency of this colony, yet, without laws, courts of justice, or government of its own, is not subject to those of Antigua, except through the special interposition of the Crown in the erection of courts, and the appointment of officers for the purpose. It is not possible to punish even the most flagrant crime. It is to be feared, however, that the present enactment will scarcely effect its purpose. The first clause seems rather to embody a misapprehension of the functions of the Legislature of this colony, in imposing its own laws upon territory over which it has no jurisdiction; and two of the other three sections are devoted to provisions for the exercise of the electoral franchise by persons only the tenants at will of Sir William Codrington, himself but the lessee for years from the Crown.

Political Franchise.

18. This allusion to the political franchise calls to mind the great necessity for a registration of voters. The present House of Assembly will expire at the end of this year, and there will then be a general election, likely to be contested, in some instances, it is said, by new candidates for public favour. Experience has shown that the existing Assembly would do well to insist upon a record of the parties justly entitled to exercise the right of electing members for the new house. Although in many cases no poll has been required, on the last occasion none being asked for in 8 out of 14 electoral districts, yet great loss of time and obstruction to public business have arisen within my own knowledge from scrutinies. These being mainly caused by the absence of any authoritative source of information to which reference could be had on disputed votes. Thus it has been necessary that the house should investigate separately the claims of each voter; an amount of time and energy being wasted in useless labour and fruitless discussion which would scarcely be believed if the evil was not witnessed. And I leave out of consideration the mischief so bountifully resulting from the excitement of party feeling and personal antagonism.

19. It might be a question whether, with a salutary provision of the kind suggested, some extension of the franchise might not be advantageous. But at present to enlarge it would only be to expand the area of strife, from the greater difficulty of verifying the claim to suffrage; and I must admit that I have not heard any complaints of the qualification being too much restricted.

Civil Establishment.

20. The only new office created during the year is that of Inspector of Weights and Measures, but he is paid by fees (see page No. 10 of Blue Book), and the appointment

ANTIGUA. forms no additional charge upon the public. The augmentation of the police force, by the employment of 12 non-commissioned officers and men as a mounted force, under Act No. 1,105, has caused a considerable increase in the fixed cost of that department.

21. There have been few changes in the usual establishment, and these have been of temporary character, no vacancies having occurred by death or removal in principal offices.

22. This seems a fit place for calling attention to the insufficiency of the staff of the revenue and treasury department for the duties they have to perform. Everything relating to the collection and disbursement of the colonial funds is charged upon them. Besides this, all the duties formerly belonging to the Imperial Customs have been transferred to the colonial offices. The services formerly devolving upon the Loan Commissioners, manifold duties, with regard to registration of shipping, shipment and discharge of seamen preparation of other troublesome returns, as well as for the Blue Book, have been superimposed on the former strictly colonial duties; and to these has lately been added the administration of the recent law imposing an excise on rum, this latter in itself requiring the almost undivided attention of a separate officer.

23. I believe it is scarcely necessary to dwell upon the impolicy of supplying only inadequate means, when the object is the faithful and efficient discharge of public duty; but having alluded to the subject, I may mention, in passing, that my own department, as well as the treasury, has furnished an instance of the inconsiderate manner in which addition can be made to the existing occupations of an office without affording supplementary aid for its performance. The ordinary duties, comprehending as they do various branches in executive, legislative, and judicial business of the island, form ample employment for the single clerk allowed to my office by the public. To these have been added the duties of Registrar General, which cannot be efficiently discharged without other help. Had I not obtained private assistance it must have been impracticable to prevent arrears and confusion. And in the event of the illness of my only clerk, while the courts or legislature might be sitting, and my presence required out of my office, the current business of the department must have been wholly suspended. I think it may be asserted that no public office of importance should have less than two qualified subordinates.

Population.

The last year was only the second for which complete annual tables have been obtained under the Act for registering births and deaths; it is therefore the first on which comparison can be made with a preceding year.

25. Annexed are abstracts of the registries for 1858. These show that while the total deaths are less than those for 1857 (by 36) the births are also so far less numerous (by 242) that upon the whole there has been a decrease in the population of 38 persons. The diminution in the births is nearly 15 per cent. of the number for 1857; and it is difficult to account for so large a difference.

25. The proportion of deaths in the several quarters appears on comparison to be much the same in the two years, in both being most numerous in the last and fewest in the second quarter of the year.

27. Although the proportion is slightly diminished again, it is apparent that the mortality among young infants under one year is distressingly great. The returns for last year show nearly 32 per cent. of the total deaths, and, excluding these, not far short of 19 per cent. are deaths of young persons under the age of puberty, being an excess of 5 per cent. in this latter class of ages over the tables for 1857.

28. Of still-born children the ratio is happily less than that of the preceding year, being still, however, $9\frac{6}{10}$ per cent. of the total births, and more than double the number shown by returns for Great Britain.

29. The decimal proportion of illegitimate births is scarcely less, being somewhat over 53 per cent. (·531), as against 54 per cent. of the total in the former year.

30. On reference to the classification of causes of death, we find few striking variances from the returns of 1857. The most noticeable is in the number of deaths from epidemic disease, of which the last quarter alone of 1858 gives more than two thirds of the whole of the preceding year. Tubercular diseases, and those of the respiratory organs, are, as before, in large numbers. Of these, as was remarked in 1857, but very few are from the white population. Nearly half the mortality among them on the present table arises from epidemic disease, which, during the last quarter of 1858 and the earlier portion of 1859, has created fearful gaps in our small colonial society, and even but now the whole community mourns for an illustrious victim to its insidious ravages in the late beloved and lamented Bishop Rigaud.

Miscellaneous Numerical Returns.

31. Attention is again attracted to the further increase of lodgments in the savings bank. The amount now standing as debts to depositors is 6,554*l.*, being in excess of the balance at the end of 1857 by 528*l.*, that balance being also larger than the preceding one. In the second year of its establishment (1848) this institution held deposits to the extent of 1,500*l.* During the succeeding ten years its operations have extended fourfold, and the amount of business transacted is not generally estimated as it deserves, for although the balances at the end of succeeding years have of late been regularly increasing, the drafts and lodgments on individual accounts have largely fluctuated. The more provident of the lower orders have come to understand the beneficial nature of the institution, and its value in enabling them to preserve and increase with security the little surplus product of their industry; and the progress of the bank in usefulness cannot be regarded as otherwise than bearing pleasing testimony to the corresponding prosperity of the classes chiefly resorting to its aid.

Education.

32. The school returns are the first for a whole year since the establishment of a Board of Education. The tables are made up chiefly from information obtained from the inspector, but collated in some particulars with returns from the clergy of the several denominations. I insert a summary for the year, for present facility of reference.

Denomination.	Day Schools.			Sunday Schools.		
	No. of Schools.	Male Scholars.	Female Scholars.	No. of Schools.	Male Scholars.	Female Scholars.
Church of England - - -	21	888	690	10	572	619
Moravian - - - - -	17	1,006	839	17	2,020	1,810
Wesleyan - - - -	9	391	326	10	592	805
Private - - - - -	2	63	66	—	—	—
Mico Institution - - -	3	138	60	—	—	—
Totals - - -	53	2,486	1,981	37	3,184	3,234

If the former returns may be trusted, and I see no reason to regard them with discredit, the present tables show a most gratifying increase in the number of pupils both on day and Sunday schools. Of the former there is an augmentation of 947 scholars, or more than 26 per cent.; and the increase on the Sunday schools has also been noticeably large, being 5,634 for 1857, and 6,418 for 1858.

33. Annexed is the first annual report of the Commissioners of Education for the year ended September last. To their remark it is not necessary that I should add much.

34. One great difficulty seems to be the inferior class of teachers. The inspector has observed to me, that it is only with much pains he has been able to get them to keep proper books, and that many of them are wholly incapable of doing so without aid. With regard to the salaries, which of course influence the class of persons available, it is remarked that "different practices prevail in different schools even of the same com-" munion. In Church schools, generally, the master receives the school fees as part of " salary. In addition to this some managers give the teacher a portion of the grant " from the Board of Education. Some include this in the return sent on; others " do not."

35. " In Moravian schools a fixed sum is paid, and a small addition from the educa-" tional grant is made in the shape of a small capitation fee, but in some this is com-" muted for a fixed sum. In Wesleyan schools a fixed sum is paid to the teacher, and " the average taken from the salaries paid by the Wesleyan Mission represents fairly the " average salaries paid."

36. " In several places the teachers are provided with houses; in some, perhaps one or " two, a sum of money is paid to enable the teacher to hire a house."

37. A few unimportant private schools in the city are omitted; altogether the inspector knows of perhaps a dozen more, having an attendance of about 150 in the whole.

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Imports and Exports.

38. As would be expected from my remarks on the productiveness of the tariff and tonnage duties, the trade returns for 1858 exhibit a considerable augmentation of imports. Their amount is probably as great as has been known for many years. The recent extension and alterations required in the forms by the Board of Trade prevent any close comparison with tables further back than 1856.

39. I insert an abstract of the shipments of the only staple products which the colony exports. Ground provisions, such as yams, potatoes, eddoes, &c., are not cultivated to any extent, and on many properties not at all. The supply is not wholly sufficient for internal consumption. But the crop of sugar, with its accompaniments, molasses and rum, is the largest for a considerable period, excepting that for 1855, which, however, it nearly reaches. It will thus be seen that there is no diminution of agricultural activity.

RETURN OF EXPORT OF PRODUCE.

EXPORTED TO	SUGAR.			RUM.			MOLASSES.	
	Hhds.	Tierces.	Barrels.	Hhds.	Puncheons.	Qr. Casks.	Puncheons.	Barrels.
United Kingdom - -	14,016	1,520	5,684	168	1,257	5	5,452	2
British North America -	11	—	191	—	1	—	643	—
United States - -	64	11	394½	—	—	—	340	—
British West Indies -	29	—	111	1	11	—	33	4
Foreign ditto - -	—	—	30	—	—	—	—	—
Madeira - - -	10	4	197	—	—	—	—	—
Totals - - -	14,130	1,535	6,607½	169	1,269	5	6,468	6

Total equal to 15,978½ hhds., or 11,984 tons, sugar.

Gaols and Prisoners.

40. The number of prisoners committed during 1858, and remaining in gaol at the close of that year, was much increased by the convictions for participation in the riots of March, to which I have elsewhere had occasion to allude as influencing the character of the returns for the year.

41. There are no other peculiar features in the present tables demanding special remark. But I should not omit to notice that the whole system of prison discipline, the need for making the labour of prisoners maintained at so large a cost more available for their own support, and the urgent call for a separate establishment for the reception of juvenile offenders and vagrants under an industrial system, have engaged much attention.

42. Fruits of such regard for important subjects would have been enjoyed in practical results but for the unfortunate occurrences in the early portion of the year, and the consequent distraction in public affairs which has been felt almost up to this time.

43. A Bill for the establishment of a reformatory asylum for juvenile offenders was, indeed, passed by the Assembly. The Council suggested some important modifications, and the proposed amendments were under the consideration of the Assembly when the measure was extinguished by the prorogation of the Legislature during the sittings of the Court of Oyer and Terminer in May. It has not yet been re-introduced.

General.

44. In the foregoing remarks I have endeavoured to present the features chiefly worthy of notice in the several returns. It has been a labour of love to collect matter which is upon the whole creditable to the condition of the place with which I am officially associated, and in which I have some personal interests at stake.

45. I believe that your Excellency will think with me that the more important of these statistics create no unfavourable impression as to the present state of the colony, nor open cheerless prospects for the future of one of the most ancient dependencies of the Crown.

45. There are no obstacles to the steady progress and continuous prosperity which it is not within the power of the colonists themselves to overcome, unaided, except by such help and counsel as the Government of the mother country will willingly accord and her offspring gratefully receive. The "quæstio vexata" to which Governor Higginson in his able report of 1847 feelingly alludes is now and for ever set at rest. There remain happily no questions on which the policy of the Imperial Government and the interests of the West India colonies are supposed to be at variance. None would reinstitute slavery, with its attendant evils and train of mischief, if the effect of such misfortune could be tested by a wish. But few there are who do not yet see that by the final negation of the claim for "protection" has been removed a vague uncertainty that rested like an incubus upon the dormant energies of these communities.

46. Now, not the councils of any portion of the British dominions could be freer from elements of discord arising from such exhausted sources. Class interests are obliterated. There is no combination that can be called a "party." Members of the Legislature voting together on one day will be found opposed on the next; and the ancient prejudices of race have no perceptible influence in political affairs. There are still, however, local difficulties to be encountered in piloting the colony to a position of security; and one of some importance exists in the administrative system, or rather absence of administrative system. In one shape or another, this has been the "crux gubernatorum" in all of the West Indian group; but I now speak of what has appeared more specially under my own observation in this island.

47. The House of Assembly is still, perhaps, as intelligent a body of men as any of the representative houses in the West Indies, although, having lost much of its former reputation for talent and ability, in the removal of many distinguished members, but now there are none who claim the position of leaders. At this time there is literally no channel of intercourse between the Executive and the other branches of the Legislature, for the mode of communication by message or address is practically useless. Until lately, indeed, this breach in the continuity of any system of governing was occupied, and not unsuccessfully, by the Attorney General, always a member of the lower house, and tacitly recognized as the organ of government, in the persons of Sir Robert Horsford and Mr. Sheriff, the two last holders of this appointment. This officer exercised great influence; was deemed to be the leader in measures emanating from the Government, and looked to for the exposition of the Governor's views and support of his policy. The present Attorney General is not a member of the Assembly; nor should it be expected that a stranger to the colony, in that office, could exercise the influence needed for the successful occupancy of the position I have described. The attitude was a peculiar one, and never accurately defined. If it had been declared to involve unhesitating and unquestioning support of all measures desired by the Governor, the majority of the assemblage which the leader for government attempted to sway would have regarded with distrust arguments viewed, possibly as not wholly embodying the convictions of the enunciator, but allowed, without the obligations of his office being exactly marked or circumscribed, to stand between the Executive and the Legislature of the colony:—supposed to be, as it were, the keeper of the Governor's conscience, and his responsible adviser:—the Attorney General, being himself a man of local standing, and personally interested, by possession of property, in the well being of the colony, discharged better than might be supposed the functions of a parliamentary minister.

48. Now, however, there is no officer either avowedly or by implication regarded as the organ of Government in the Legislature. Messages from the Governor are received even without acknowledgments, and, shelved by being placed on the order of the day, remain for months, sometimes altogether, without further notice. It is the special duty of no one to further the public business, which is frequently most inconveniently delayed; and the time and energies of the Legislature are frittered away in the discussion of crude undigested schemes, to be applied at haphazard, according to the crochets of some individual member, to the remedy of any evil which engages more especially his particular care. Many of these fall stillborn on their production; more are found to be impossible in their original shape, and are so altered in their principal features as scarcely to be recognized by their authors; and the value of the labours of a well-intentioned Assembly may be estimated by a glance at the amount and consequence of the addition to our Statute Book during the past twelve months, if the measures immediately caused by the riots are left out of consideration.

49. And this is not all. The adage, which indicates that the business supposed to concern every one seldom obtains the attention of any, finds further illustration in the mode of expending large sums of the public money. With regard to fixed public establishments, separate standing committees, appointed by the two houses, examine the

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accounts; and it is only on these being submitted, with the certificate of such committee, that the warrants on the treasury for payment are periodically issued. But, in cases of numerous and extensive grants by resolution for miscellaneous public services, no account is in effect ever rendered to or examined by any competent authority. Such are sums paid during the last two years for repairs to public buildings, amounting to 8,269*l.* There is a separate standing committee for each of these buildings, unpaid and irresponsible, except nominally to the Legislature, and to them is committed the superintendence of the necessary works. Application is made by some one of the members in the Assembly from time to time for grants, varying from 200*l.* to 300*l.*, to carry on such work, but no detailed statement of the expenditure is ever in fact produced. The majority of the committee trouble themselves little about it, and the trust is practically confided to some one more willing or active than the rest, who never is asked for an account of his stewardship.

50. I have no reason to allege that fraud, so possible under such loose arrangements, has ever been the result; but it may safely be affirmed that a more wasteful and unsatisfactory mode of conducting public duty could scarcely have been devised.

51. Attention has been awakened, however, to these practical evils, in common with the theoretical deficiencies of the present colonial constitution. I believe that the public mind is ripe for the adoption of an administrative system, similar in principle to that recently inaugurated at St. Kitts. By such organization of distracted forces, at present neutralizing in each other all effort at advancement, will be obtained that strength in purpose and unity of design in which alone can be expected any powerful operation from schemes for promoting the common welfare.

52. I have given your Excellency, I believe, a fair and impartial statement of matters nearly affecting the future prosperity of the island. How far my inferences may be supported by your conclusions, I trust your Excellency will have ample opportunity for judging, during a continued residence among us, in a community still weakened, it is true, by the struggle through which it has passed since the earthquake of 1843 and the measures of 1846, but now regaining vigour, and yielding to none in the strength of loyal attachment to the British Crown.

I have, &c.

His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) A. MUSGRAVE,
Colonial Secretary.

REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF EDUCATION FOR THE YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 1858.

As the Act under which the Commissioners were appointed does not lay down any fixed plan of granting aid, but only limits its amount, they felt that their first duty was to consider carefully in what manner the legislative grant might be distributed, so as best to promote the public good, Their aim was to assist schools already in existence with the funds necessary to place them in a healthy position, with regard to teachers' salaries, books, and apparatus. Although power is conferred to aid in the erection of school buildings, yet they soon discovered that for the present they must refrain, however desirable it might be to promote that object.

The following scheme, which hitherto has worked satisfactorily, is that on which grants in aid have been made.

To every school in connexion with the Commissioners, and of which they approve, a grant is made of one third of the total expenditure; and to this is added sixpence per head per quarter on the daily average attendance, with a view to promote the increase of scholars.

By referring to the annexed Table I., it will be seen that the grants do not exceed one half of the total expenditure, which is the maximum allowed by the Act in ordinary cases.

In one or two instances special grants, of small amount, have been made to private schools.

When it was publicly intimated that the Commissioners were prepared to receive applications for aid, thirty-seven were laid before them; and these, coming within the provisions of the Act, were provisionally accepted. Of these, eleven were from schools of the Established Church, sixteen from Moravian schools, six from Wesleyan schools, two from Presbyterian schools, and two from private schools.

During the year seven more applications were received; four from schools in existence before the passing of the Act, and three from new establishments; but, owing to various causes, from the union of two schools, inability to keep up the required average of twenty pupils, and difficulty in obtaining suitable teachers, the number at present receiving aid from the Commissioners is as follows:—

Established Church	15	schools
Moravian „	16	„
Wesleyan „	6	„
Presbyterian „	—	„
Private School	1	„
Total	38	„

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The total number of different schools which have received aid once or oftener during the year was forty-two.

Those at present in receipt of grants from the Commissioners are distributed in the following manner among the six parishes of the island:—

St. John's,	12 Schools	St. Philip's,	5 Schools
St. Mary's,	6 „	St. Peter's,	4 „
St. Paul's,	7 „	St. George's,	4 „

Arranging them according to the age of the scholars for which they are principally intended, it appears that there are—

Juvenile Schools (boys and girls) - - - -	5
Mixed (juveniles and infants) - - - - -	22
Infant Schools - - - - - - -	11

In proportion to the population, the parishes of St. John, St. George, and St. Peter have fewer schools than the remaining districts of the island. The City of St. John appears to be most deficient, but this deficiency is, perhaps, more in appearance than in reality, as the private schools, which are numerous, have not come under the notice of the Commissioners. The country districts, with a few exceptions, are fairly provided for; and the Commissioners are, therefore, more desirous of improving the existing establishments than of increasing the number. In general, there is one school to every nine hundred persons; or, in other words, one school for every one hundred and eighty children of school ages.

In many cases there is no proper schoolroom provided, the work being carried on either in places of worship or in private dwellings. There are twenty-two schoolrooms; ten schools are kept in places of worship, and six in dwelling-houses.

Though unable to assist, it is gratifying to the Commissioners to know that three new schoolrooms, every way adapted for the purposes designed, have been erected during the year. These are at Potter's, Seaton's, and Pygott's Village.

As far as circumstances permitted, the plans proposed by Mr. Stow for the internal arrangement of schools have been very generally adopted. A gallery occupies the greater part of one side of the room, the other sides being commonly filled up with desks for writing, leaving an open space in the middle, which is occupied during the reading lessons, &c. The introduction of improved furniture has been general; and this will afford increased facilities for teaching, and tend to the improvement of discipline.

When the schools were first inspected, the only reading-book in common use was the Bible; where secular books were used, they were either so damaged that few complete copies could be found, or unsuitable for the purposes of elementary schools. The Commissioners report with pleasure that in this respect a great and beneficial change has, by their aid, gradually taken place.

Most schools have, during the year, been supplied with a good stock of books; the Church of England and Moravian schools with the excellent series known as the Irish books; the Wesleyan schools with the set published by the British and Foreign School Society.

The salaries generally paid to teachers are not so large as to induce many of superior ability to apply for the office; but these have, in many cases, been considerably increased. The highest salary is about 60*l.* per annum, and a house; males are paid generally from 25*l.* to 36*l.*, and females from 16*l.* to 30*l.* The total number of teachers, exclusive of sewing mistresses, is fifty.

Schools are opened between 9 and 10 o'clock A.M., and are closed at 3 o'clock P.M. At noon there is an hour given for recreation, but at many schools part of this time is devoted to manual labour. Generally school is opened by the principal teacher with singing and prayer, which are followed by a Bible lesson, given to the whole school while seated on the gallery; this is succeeded by class teaching in reading, writing, &c. These classes are conducted by monitors, themselves pupils of the school, and frequently but little in advance of their classes.

In infant schools little more than reading is attended to, together with simple lessons on Scripture history and on common objects; there are, however, but few strictly infant schools. In juvenile schools much more is attempted; Scripture history, reading, writing, arithmetic, the elements of geography, grammar, natural history, and singing occupy the attention of the pupils, a due regard being paid always to the principal subjects.

The elements of Scripture history are fairly known in several of the better sort of juvenile schools; good reading is becoming more general. Spelling is usually taught by setting tasks to be committed to memory; but, in a few schools, the more correct and successful practice of teaching by dictation is used. Writing is successfully taught in many juvenile schools, and might with advantage be introduced even into infant schools. To both mental and slate arithmetic considerable attention is devoted, and with no little success in many cases. Grammar and geography are taught once or twice a week, and only the elements are attempted. Where there are girls old enough to learn, sewing is generally taught for an hour or two daily. However desirous school managers and teachers may be to promote the progress of the pupils, the small value set upon education by many of the parents of the children presents an almost insuperable obstacle to any great improvement. For this, and other reasons, the attendance at school is very irregular and unpunctual.

But the Commissioners from the first expressed their anxiety on this matter, and have discountenanced any attendance of less than five days per week. The average number of days per week attended by each child, though improving, does not much exceed three. Annexed to this Report is a copy of the return of the attendance for one month of a school in the country district. The great difference between the Monday attendance and that on other days is at once perceptible. See Table 6.

It is highly gratifying to the Commissioners to be able to report, that in the attendance at schools receiving aid very considerable interest has taken place, both in the number on the books and in the average number daily present.

At the close of the first quarter of their operations, returns were received by them from thirty-five schools, showing that the average number on the books for the quarter was 2,999; at the end of See Table 2.

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See Table 5.

September 1858 returns were received from thirty-eight schools, showing that the average number on the books was 3,910, an apparent increase of about 30 per cent. on the first quarter; but, after making allowance for those schools which do not appear in that return, there has been a positive increase of upwards of 600, or over 20 per cent.

See Tables 2 and 5.

In the average attendance there has been proportionately a much larger increase. In the first quarter it was 1,749; in the last quarter it was 2,516; this is equal to an increase of upwards of 42 per cent.

These results are to be attributed, if not wholly, still in great part to the beneficial effect of the legislative grant; but although much has been done, yet increasing efforts and much patience are required to complete the work for the attendance at school is much lower than it should be, and of those who are on the list about one third are constantly absent.

The ratio that the number on the list bears to the whole population is as one to nine; that of the average attendance is as one to fourteen.

As far as it can be collected from the census returns, between one fourth and one fifth of the entire population is between the ages of three and thirteen. Taking the latter as the nearer to the truth, the number of children in the colony, of school age, is about 7,000; and allowing that about 1,000 of these attend the various private schools throughout the island, still there remains a larger number of children who go to no school at all, being not less than 2,000; or, in other words, out of every three children who ought to attend only two make any profession of going to school.

In nearly all schools connected with the Commissioners, school fees are insisted on. The sum paid varies from one penny to threepence per week. The average sum paid by each scholar during the year was two shillings in Church of England and Wesleyan schools, and three shillings in Moravian schools, the average sum being two shillings and sixpence, nearly. The average cost of educating each child was upwards of eight shillings. Towards this sum the Commissioners contributed three shillings and ninepence, nearly. The deficiency is made up from funds at the disposal of the Lord Bishop of the diocese, and by missionary and benevolent societies in England.

The accompanying Tables, 1 to 6, contain summaries of all the returns made to the Commissioners, as well as a statement of the expenditure during the year of the money placed at their disposal.

Future improvement depends, to a great extent, on the teachers, of whom a large supply of really efficient persons is much required. A class of assistants superior to the present monitors is as much wanted.

To supply the first want, the Commissioners can do but little, though they have the liberty to do so. They have during the year assisted two persons to prepare themselves for the office of teacher, by enabling them to reside at the training school; one at the Mico Institution, the other at the Female Training School, Spring Gardens.

A plan for the promotion of the second is at present under consideration, but it is to be feared that a want of means will prevent its being carried out to a sufficient extent to give it a fair trial.

The Commissioners cannot conclude their Report without bringing to the notice of the Legislature the generally felt want of a superior or commercial school in the city, conducted on liberal principles, for the benefit of other classes of the community; and it is to be hoped that a subject so important to all will occupy the serious attention of the Legislature.

GEO. CLARKE, Chairman pro tem.
G. WESTERBY.
JOHN PARKES.
WM. THIROU.
JOHN FOREMAN.

COMMISSIONERS OF EDUCATION.

Receipts.

1857-8	£	s.	d.
To education grant for the year ending August 10th, 1857 -	1,000	0	0
	£1,000	0	0

Expenditure.

1857-8	£	s.	d.
By grants to schools (Table I.) -	697	6	8½
By grants to maintain two teachers at training schools - - -	7	8	0
By school registers - - -	11	16	0
By printing and stationery - -	2	16	8
By inspector's salary - - -	200	0	0
October 8th, by balance at the colonial bank - - - -	80	12	7½
	£1,000	0	0

TABLE I.

ABSTRACT OF THE QUARTERLY SUMMARIES FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30TH SEPTEMBER 1857.

Religious Denominations.	ATTENDANCE.			RECEIPTS.			EXPENDITURE.		
	Average on the List.	Number in daily attendance.	Number per cent. in daily attendance.	School Fees.	Grant from Commissioners of Education.	Total Receipts from sources in the colony.	Salaries.	Books, Maps, Apparatus.	Total Expenditure.
				£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Established Church	1,002	593⅓	59·1	106 15 2⅓	236 16 1	343 11 3⅓	430 6 9½	103 17 3½	534 4 1
Moravian „	1,780	1,189¼	66·8	274 0 9½	321 4 8	595 5 5½	493 13 10	109 2 9	602 16 7
Wesleyan „	590	354	60	55 8 3½	121 5 6	176 13 9½	225 10 0	32 4 0	257 14 0
Presbyterian „	45⅓	29	64·4	3 13 5½	6 10 5½	10 3 11	9 11 5½	1 6 0	10 17 5½
Private schools (unconnected with any church).	137½	91¼	66·4	5 13 4	Special Grant 11 10 0	17 3 4	5 13 4	1 17 0	7 10 4
Totals	3,555	2,257	63·2	445 11 1	697 6 8½	1,142 17 9½	1,164 15 5	248 7 0½	1,413 2 5½

TABLE II.

SUMMARY OF THE RETURNS FOR THE QUARTER ENDING 31ST DECEMBER 1857.

Religious Denominations.	ATTENDANCE.						RECEIPTS.			EXPENDITURE.		
	No. of Schools.	Average on the List.	No. in daily attendance.	No. per cent. in daily attendance.	No. present 40 whole days.	No. per cent. present 40 days.	School Fees.	Grant from Commissioners of Education.	Total Receipts from sources in the colony.	Salaries.	Books, Maps, Apparatus.	Total Expenditure.
							£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Established Church	11*	656⅓	386	58·8	294	39·7	16 6 4	41 9 0	57 15 4	75 8 6	14 3 0	89 11 6
Moravian „	16	1,627	926	57·	890	54·7	59 1 3½	61 4 9	120 6 0½	104 7 0	2 10 0	106 17 0
Wesleyan Mission	5	480⅓	281	58·5	181	41·9	11 1 9	23 0 4	34 2 1	47 12 0	0 7 6	47 19 6
Presbyterian	1	64⅓	42	66·	21	33·	1 5 1½	2 6 8½	3 11 10	2 11 1½	1 6 0 rent of room.	3 17 1½
Private schools (unconnected with any church).	3	171	114	66·6	„	„	2 9 11	Special Grant 4 10 0	6 19 11	2 9 11	1 17 0	4 6 11
Totals	36	2,999	1,749	58·35	1,386	46·2	90 4 5	132 10 9½	222 15 2½	232 8 6½	20 3 6	252 12 0½

* Returns from ten Established Church schools were sent in; but grants were made to eleven, as above.

TABLE III.

SUMMARY OF THE RETURNS FOR THE QUARTER ENDING 31ST MARCH 1858.

Religious Denominations.	ATTENDANCE.						RECEIPTS.			EXPENDITURE.		
	No. of Schools.	Average on the List.	No. in daily attendance.	No. per cent. in daily attendance.	No. present 40 days.	No. per cent. present 40 days.	School Fees.	Grant from Commisioners of Education.	Total Receipts from sources in the island.	Salaries.	Books, Maps, Apparatus.	Total Expenditure.
							£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Established Church - - -	13	980 $\frac{2}{3}$	595	60·5	379*	52·2	24 12 2$\frac{1}{2}$	64 2 6	88 14 8$\frac{1}{2}$	108 19 8$\frac{1}{2}$	46 8 6	153 8 2$\frac{1}{2}$
Moravian „ - - - -	61	1,724	1,253	72·6	1,240	71·9	72 13 8$\frac{1}{2}$	83 15 8$\frac{1}{2}$	156 9 5	119 3 2	39 5 0	158 8 2
Wesleyan „ - - - - -	6	598 $\frac{2}{3}$	376	63·	319	53·3	14 5 11	32 18 0	47 3 11	58 16 0	11 14 0	70 10 0
Presbyterian „ - - - -	1	57 $\frac{1}{3}$	36	63·1	19	33·	1 1 2	1 18 4$\frac{1}{2}$	2 19 6$\frac{1}{2}$	3 1 2	„	3 1 2
Private schools (unconnected with any church).	2	154	91	63·2	„	„	1 10 1	Special Grant. 3 0 0	4 10 1	1 10 1	„	1 10 1
Totals - - - - -	38	3,504 $\frac{2}{3}$	2,351	64·4	1,957	52·6	114 3 1	185 14 7	377 15 2	291 10 1$\frac{1}{2}$	97 7 6	388 17 7$\frac{1}{2}$

TABLE IV.

SUMMARY OF THE RETURNS FOR THE QUARTER ENDING 30TH JUNE 1858.

Religious Denominations.	ATTENDANCE.						RECEIPTS.			EXPENDITURE.		
	No. of Schools.	Average on the List.	No. in daily attendance.	No. per cent. in daily attendance.	No. present 40 days.	No. per cent. present 40 days.	School Fees.	Grant from Commissioners of Education.	Total Receipts from sources in the colony.	Salaries.	Books, Maps, Apparatus.	Total Expenditure.
							£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Established Church - - - -	13	1,102	627	56·9	483*	46·5	32 8 7	59 9 5	91 18 0	113 18 2	17 10 0	131 8 2
Moravian „ - - - -	17	1,870 $\frac{3}{4}$	1,273	68·	1,085†	66·	70 14 4	86 5 2	156 19 6	132 0 6	33 11 0	165 11 6
Wesleyan „ - - - -	6	226	379	60·5	323	51·6	14 17 4	29 15 6	44 12 10	58 16 0	2 2 0	60 18 0
Presbyterian „ - - - -	1	61 $\frac{1}{3}$	38	61·3	54	82·	1 7 2	2 5 4$\frac{1}{2}$	3 12 6$\frac{1}{2}$	3 19 2	„	3 19
Private schools (unconnected with any church).	2	148	95	64·1	42‡	42·8	1 1 4	Special Grant 2 0 0	3 1 4	1 1 4	„	1 1 4
Totals - - -	39	3,808	2,412	63·3	1,983	57·2	120 8 9	179 15 5$\frac{1}{2}$	300 4 2$\frac{1}{2}$	309 15 2	53 3 0	362 18 2

* Relates to twelve schools. † Relates to fifteen schools. ‡ Relates to only one school.

TABLE V.

SUMMARY OF THE RETURNS FOR THE QUARTER ENDING 30TH SEPTEMBER 1858.

Religious Denomination.	ATTENDANCE. No. of Schools.	Average on the List.	No. in daily attendance.	No. per cent. in daily attendance.	No. present 40 days.	No. per cent. present 40 days.	RECEIPTS. School Fees.	Grant from Commissioners of Education.	Total receipts from sources in the colony.	EXPENDITURE. Salaries.	Books, Maps, Apparatus.	Total Expenditure.
					*		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Established Church	15	1270⅓	767	60.4	601	59.8	33 8 1	71 15 2	105 3 3	132 0 5	25 15 9½	157 16 2½
Moravian „	16	1899	1305	68.8	1324	69.7	71 11 5½	89 19 0½	161 10 6	138 3 2	33 16 9	171 19 11
Wesleyan „	6	653⅔	379	58.	360	55.1	15 3 3½	35 11 8	50 14 11½	60 6 0	18 0 6	78 6 6
Presbyterian „					School closed							
Private Schools (unconnected with any church).	1	87	65	74.7			0 12 0	Special 2 0 0	2 12 0	0 12 0		0 12 0
Totals	38	3910	2516	64.3	2285	64.2	120 14 10	199 5 10½	320 0 8½	331 1 7	77 13 0½	408 14 7½

* Relates to 18 Schools.

TABLE VI.

COPY of the RETURN of ATTENDANCE for each Day, in the Month of May 1858, of a School in the Country.

Day of Week.	Day of Month.	Number present. Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Day of Week.	Day of Month.	Number present. Boys.	Girls.	Total.
M.	3	27	20	47	M.	17	29	21	50
Tu.	4	47	49	96	Tu.	18	47	50	97
W.	5	51	58	109	W.	19	51	51	102
Th.	6	51	58	109	Th.	20	50	59	109
F.	7	51	57	108	F.	21	50	49	99
M.	10	24	26	50	M.	24	25	23	48
Tu.	11	52	43	95	Tu.	25	47	52	99
W.	12	57	55	112	W.	26	55	53	108
Th.	13	54	55	109	Th.	27	55	53	108
F.	14	54	52	106	F.	28	53	46	99

N.B. The Number on the Books was 135.

OFFICE OF REGISTRAR-GENERAL OF BIRTHS AND DEATHS.

GENERAL ABSTRACT OF BIRTHS AND DEATHS FOR THE YEAR 1858.

Parish.	No. of Births.	Legitimate.		Illegitimate.		Complexion.			No. of Deaths.	Adults.		Under 14 and over 1 year.		One year and under.		Complexion.		
		Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Black.	White.	Coloured.		Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Black.	White.	Coloured.
St. John - -	542	124	130	148	140	364	50	128	678	201	215	40	24	102	96	448	75	155
St. Mary - -	167	47	44	45	31	144	6	17	124	37	33	4	7	21	22	106	6	12
St. Paul - -	154	31	32	43	48	133	5	16	133	26	43	8	9	29	18	115	6	12
St. Philip - -	133	18	32	45	38	113	7	13	129	41	33	12	8	18	17	103	10	16
St. Peter - -	150	31	26	43	50	99	9	42	136	25	30	11	9	28	33	110	6	20
St. George - -	127	38	34	35	20	99	6	22	111	32	35	4	5	24	11	97	3	11
Totals - -	1,273	289	298	359	327	952	83	238	1,311	362	389	79	62	222	197	979	106	226

ABSTRACT OF TOTAL BIRTHS AND DEATHS IN EACH QUARTER OF THE YEAR 1858.

Quarters.	No. of Births.	Legitimate.		Illegitimate.		Complexion.			No. of Deaths.	Adults.		Under 14 and over 1 year.		One year and under.		Complexion.		
		Males.	Females.	Mal	Females.	Black.	White.	Coloured.		Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Black.	White.	Coloured.
To 31st March -	390	82	95	107	106	284	18	88	327	91	110	16	8	58	44	254	16	57
To 30th June -	368	75	88	112	93	273	25	70	279	67	98	15	8	42	49	226	12	41
To 30th September -	244	66	48	69	61	188	21	35	323	90	82	19	22	61	49	249	17	57
To 31st December -	271	66	67	71	67	207	19	45	382	114	99	29	24	61	55	250	61	71
Totals -	1,273	289	298	359	327	952	83	238	1,311	362	389	79	62	222	197	979	106	226

Classification of Causes of Death for the Year 1858.

Causes of Death.	No. of Deaths.	Adults.		Under 14 and over 1 Year.		1 Year and under.		Complexion.		
		Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Black.	White.	Coloured.
1.—Specified Causes.										
A.—General Diseases:										
Zymotic (epidemic, endemic, or contagious)	213	50	54	25	18	33	33	131	47	35
Eruptive Fevers	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
B.—Sporadic Diseases.										
Dropsy, cancer, and other diseases of uncertain or variable seat	81	32	29	9	9	1	1	68	1	12
Tubercular diseases	125	59	59	3	2	1	1	86	7	32
Diseases of the brain, spinal marrow, nerves, and senses	88	28	28	2	4	14	12	62	10	16
Diseases of the heart and blood vessels	43	17	20	1	—	3	2	35	2	6
Diseases of the lungs and other organs of respiration	77	25	19	7	6	10	10	58	3	16
Diseases of the stomach, liver, and other organs of digestion	184	49	25	17	13	45	35	144	12	28
Diseases of the kidneys	6	4	2	—	—	—	—	3	2	1
Childbirth, diseases of the womb, &c.	15	—	15	—	—	—	—	8	3	4
Rheumatism, diseases of the bones, joints, &c.	6	4	2	—	—	—	—	4	—	2
Diseases of the skin, cellular tissues, &c.	38	17	21	—	—	—	—	35	—	3
Malformations	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Premature birth and debility	46	—	—	1	—	26	19	41	1	4
Atrophy	19	6	11	—	2	—	—	16	—	3
Age	107	33	74	—	—	—	—	88	6	13
Sudden	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
Violence, privation, poison, intemperance, &c.	25	11	5	5	2	—	2	19	2	4
Still-born	123	—	—	—	—	67	56	103	1	19
2.—Causes not Specified	113	26	24	9	6	22	26	76	9	28
Totals	1,311	362	389	79	62	222	197	979	106	226

ANTIGUA.

RETURN of the Militia Force of Antigua, 13th May 1859.

CORPS.	Colonels.	Majors.	Captains.	Lieutenants.	Cornets.	Surgeons.	Assistant Surgeons.	Quarter Masters.	Sergeants.	Rank and File.	TOTAL.
Cavalry - - - - -	1	1	2	3	4	1	1	—	—	118	131
Artillery - - - - -	—	1	1	1	—	1	—	—	2	29	35
Infantry (City) - - - - -	—	—	4	7	—	1	—	1	2	55	70
Total now serving - - -	1	2	7	11	4	3	1	1	4	202	236
Awaiting authority of Legislature to call out under Act, 1,115:											
Artillery - - - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	25	25
Infantry (City Corps) - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	145	151
Parishes of St. Peter and St. Paul's	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	4	50	56
	1	2	9	11	4	3	1	1	14	422	468

Captain Smith, appointed for St. Paul's.
„ Foote, „ St. Peter's.

MONTSERRAT.

MONTSERRAT.

No. 13.

No. 13.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Ker B. HAMILTON to the Right Honourable Sir EDWARD BULWER LYTTON, Bart, M.P.

(No. 21.)

Leeward Islands, Antigua,
March 14, 1859.
(Received April 15, 1859.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit a Despatch from President Rushworth, forwarding the "Blue Book" of Montserrat for the year 1858.

2. Mr. Rushworth's vigilant administration commenced four years ago, and, although during that time the condition of the Island has been improved, the correspondence alluded to by Mr. Rushworth in the 11th paragraph of his Despatch shows that the form of government in Montserrat, if ever suitable and beneficial to the community, has ceased to be so, and that a change of system is requisite. The constituents in general are illiterate, and feel little sympathy with or interest in the proceedings of the Legislature; and in the working of the existing constitution the few influential persons in the Island are excluded from or refuse to sit in the Assembly, which is chiefly composed of persons of very moderate stake or interest in the Colony.

3. During the past year the Import Duties were re-established, the annual produce of which will, without bearing hard upon any portion of the community, yield a fair revenue towards the purposes of civil government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) KER B. HAMILTON.

The Right Hon. Sir E. B. Lytton, Bart, M.P.
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure in No. 10.

MONTSERRAT.

Encl. in No. 13.

(No. 17.)

SIR, Montserrat, March 1, 1859.

IT is gratifying for me, while forwarding the "Blue Book" of Montserrat for the year 1858, to be able to report to your Excellency a further improvement in the financial condition of the Island, and that the revenue raised has been more than sufficient to meet the current expenses of the year.

2. The following statement of the Public General Account will best show the actual financial position of the Island for the year ended the 31st December last.

REVENUE and Expenditure of the Island of Montserrat for the Year 1858.

	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
To arrears of last year's revenue	- - -	95 17 11	By arrears of last year's expenditure - - -	- - -	588 19 1½
Revenue for 1858 :—			1858 :—		
Land tax - - -	2,467 2 1¼		Civil establishment - -	697 4 11	
Liquor licences - - -	67 10 0		Judicial ditto - -	290 15 2	
Import duty - -	1,007 17 11¼		Ecclesiastical ditto -	207 15 6	
Fines, penalties, and forfeitures	44 1 10¼		Maintenance of paupers -	445 4 11¾	
Boats' and porters' licences -	2 12 0		Jail and penal gang -	96 14 2	
Rent of Fort Barrington -	16 9 3		Public printing - -	112 10 8	
Total revenue of 1858 - -	- - -	3,605 13 1¾	Repair of public roads -	98 13 7	
			Fifth instalment and interest of loan - - -	806 5 4½	
			Contingent expenses -	92 16 10½	
			Total expenditure of 1858 -	- - -	2,848 1 2¾
					3,437 0 4½
			Excess of Revenue over Expenditure - - -	- - -	264 10 8½
		3,701 11 0¾			3,701 11 0¾

3. From this statement your Excellency will perceive that the amount of revenue collected within the year, after discharging the arrears of 1857, and providing for the entire expense of the government during 1858, has left in the hands of the Treasurer a surplus of 264*l.* 10*s.* 8½*d.* available for the service of 1859.

4. This improvement of the revenue has also allowed a larger expenditure of the public monies in the promotion of several objects of general utility than has, on account of the impoverished condition of the Island, been feasible for many previous years.

Repairs have been effected on the public roads; the Acts of the Legislature have been printed; the comfort and accommodation of the poor has been much increased; a regular salary of 150*l.* a year paid to a public medical attendant; and a more rigid enforcement of sanitary regulations for the health of the town carried out.

5. I have also the satisfaction of reporting to your Excellency that the finances have been brought into this healthy state without recourse being had to the former ruinous and unfair system of paper money, in the shape of treasury orders; and every claim on the Treasury has been met by payment in specie. This rule, moreover, I have been enabled to maintain inviolate, notwithstanding much obstruction on the part of the Assembly, in resorting to every species of delay in providing the means sufficient for the conduct of the public service.

6. The returns furnished exhibit a considerable improvement in our Import Trade; but the Export Trade has declined in the past year.

7. The following Tables exhibit the Import and Export Trade for the last four years.

VALUE of Imports and Exports.

Year.	Value of Imports.	Value of Exports.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1855 - -	7,704 1 11	19,986 2 0
1856 - -	13,984 10 6	17,613 8 0
1857 - -	12,783 4 5	24,782 8 0
1858 - -	17,844 7 6½	16,829 17 9

MONTSERRAT. And the following statement shows the Export of Sugar during the same period—

	Sugar.							
Year.	——			Equal to Hhds.	Value of Hhd.		
	Hhds.	Tierces.	Brls.		£	s.	d.
1855	767	261	222	968	17	0	0
1856	600	225	184	773	20	0	0
1857	841	237	161	1,019	20	0	0
1858	541	278	425	779	17	10	0

8. During part of the year 1856, the whole of 1857, and up to May 1858, the Import trade was free from duties, and the returns cannot be depended upon for ascertaining the exact progress made in the trade of the Island during those years, for it is asserted by those engaged therein to have been more considerable than would appear on the face of the official tables. On contrasting, however, the returns of the past year (the duties having been re-imposed in the month of May) with 1855, the last year during which they were in full operation, the increase is remarkable, the returns in 1858 exceeding those of 1855 by an amount a little over 10,100*l.*

9. The Export Trade, on the other hand, shows no corresponding improvement, but, on the contrary, rather a falling off.

While the decrease of our exports in 1858, when compared with those of 1857, may in some degree be accounted for by the temporary withdrawal of capital from certain sugar estates in the course of the past year, yet the circumstance, alluded to on more than one previous occasion, of the majority of the landed proprietors being without capital, and without the means of obtaining it, is the chief cause why, notwithstanding the advance in price of the staple produce of the West Indies in the home markets, no corresponding advance has of late years been made in the exportation of sugar from this Island.

10. The present mode of assessment on real estate operates, moreover, in my opinion, very prejudicially against the introduction of capital into the Island. A re-valuation of the Property Tax Schedules is not only very desirable in a financial point of view, but the continued resistance of the Assembly to allow any legislation for the accomplishment of this object causes the tax to bear very unequally on the proprietary body. The attention of the Legislature has been repeatedly called to the subject, but hitherto without success.

11. Having not only in my former Annual Reports, but in a long correspondence with your Excellency, dwelt upon the condition of the representative institutions of Montserrat, I am not aware that anything remains to be added to my previous observations on the unfitness of the Island for its present machinery of government.

12. As the Assembly have shown their determination to oppose to the utmost any change or even modification in the present constitution, and as the absence of all laws for regulating the franchise renders the more intelligent portion of the community powerless in effecting any improvement in the selection of the members of the lower branch of the Legislature, I fear that the paralysing influence of the present representative system will prevent any rapid strides being made by Montserrat in regaining the position the Island formerly occupied among the surrounding communities, although the progress of the past year has clearly, in my opinion, proved that the resources, notwithstanding the heavy burden of the loan, are fully equal to the achievement.

I have, &c.

(Signed) E. RUSHWORTH.

To his Excellency the Governor in Chief,
&c. &c. &c.

ST. KITTS.

No. 14.

No. 14.

Copy of DESPATCH from the Officer Administering the Government to the Right Hon. Sir E. B. Lytton, Bart. M.P.

(No. 64.)

Leeward Islands, Antigua, April 23, 1859.

Sir,

(Received May 20, 1859.)

I have the honour to transmit the Blue Book of St. Kitts for the year 1858, with a Despatch from the Administrator of that Colony, in which he forwarded the same to me.

I have, &c.

(Signed) B. E. JARVIS,

President administering General Government.

No. 34, 18th April 1859.

The Right Hon. Sir E. B. Lytton, Bart.

&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure in No. 14.

(No. 34.)

Sir,

St. Christophers, April 18, 1859.

I have the honour to transmit in duplicate the Blue Book for this Colony for 1858, which, it appears, only reached my predecessor, Lieut.-Governor Robinson, on the day previous to his departure for Antigua.

2. My assumption of the temporary administration of the government dating only from a fortnight ago, will, I hope, plead my excuse for abstaining from making the usual report upon it. Were I to attempt it, the strong probability would be that I might suffer myself to be betrayed into the expression of opinions which further experience might lead me to reconsider, if not abandon; and the information contained in the book itself is so explicit as scarcely to call for a particular analysis.

3. I have great satisfaction in appending a particular report from the Honorary Secretary to the Board of Education (Rev. R. Mäder, Superintendent of the Moravian Mission), which, I think, will be found sufficiently encouraging to those who have occasionally doubted the capability of our native races to receive enlightenment through the medium of the schoolmaster.

4. I also append a Return of the State of Crime for 1858, from Mr. Chief Justice Ross.

5. Although I am certainly not at present qualified to speak upon the general subjects proper for a report upon such a document as a Colonial Blue Book, I cannot refrain from congratulating Her Majesty's Government upon the progress, which since my acquaintance with this island (dating from 1853) has evidently been maintained under some very judicious and wholesome stimulus upon the parts of those who have assisted in the direction of its public affairs. A church, built and decorated in a manner hitherto without example in British West India Colonies, and which many a populous and wealthy district in England itself would be glad to call its own; reformatory and sanitary establishments, judiciously situated and carefully watched; the principle of extramural interments fully developed; water placed at the disposal of the inhabitants, where, of all necessaries of life, that element has the highest value; police and other protective forces either established or in course of formation; and these undoubted advantages joined, as far as I can judge, to a continually increasing and improving agricultural enterprise all mark the little island of St. Kitts as a colony which has shaken off its real or imaginary troubles, determined to rival, to the extent of its means, any other in these seas. When to this I add that all these creditable advances have been made within the last three or four years, and that, so far from plunging the local treasury into difficulty, the available balance has enormously augmented, and I think it will be concluded that a spirit of self-reliance and a sense of the great duty of social and political advancement

ST. KITTS.

have been evoked in St. Kitts, in the dormant existence which those only who knew the place some ten years since, or even more recently, would be slow to believe.

I have, &c.

His Honour, the President of the Council administering the General Government, Antigua.

(Signed) J. PRICE.

Sub-Enclosure 1.

Sir,

Saint Christophers, April 16, 1859.

In compliance with the requisition contained in your Despatch of the 15th instant, I have the honour to report, for the information of the administrator of the Government, on the state of and progress made in the schools throughout the island during the past year.

2. By reference to the Minute of the Board of Education, and on examination of the Quarterly Returns forwarded by the several persons in charge of the schools, it appears that their present state as compared with previous years is decidedly improved, as will be shown by the following extracts which I have selected in illustration thereof. The Returns for the quarter ended the 31st of December 1857 show that the number of children in attendance at the schools under the guidance of the several denominations of religion in the island were as follows:—

In connexion with	Number of Schools.	Average Attendance.	Equal by law to	ScoF. leohse :55: $\frac{1}{2}$ 64
The Established Church -	17	638¾	563½	$61
Moravian Church -	9	495¾	409¼	135 : 27
Wesleyan Mission -	9	350	316¼	49 : 22
Total - -	35	1,484	1,289	$24

Exhibiting a total equal by law to 1,289 children in attendance, and from whom school fees to the amount of 246 dollars 25c. were collected, whereas during a corresponding period in 1858 the number of children in attendance were:—

In connexion with	Number of Schools.	Average Attendance.	Equal by law to	School Fees.
The Established Church -	17	666	574	$43 : 78
Moravian Church -	9	504	445	130 : 06
Wesleyan Mission -	8	289	289	51 : 58
Total - -	34	1,459	1,308	$225 : 42

It will therefore be manifest from the foregoing extracts that the number of attendants during the December quarter in 1858 were "equal by law to" 1,308 scholars, whilst during the same quarter in 1857 there were only 1,289, making a difference in favour of 1858—notwithstanding a decrease in the number of schools, as will be seen by a reference to the above Table—of 19 children. The same extracts show a difference in the school fees against 1858 of 20 dollars 83c., but which I view as being very immaterial when compared with the increase of attendants, as the grand object of these schools is not to raise a fund, but merely to instil knowledge into the minds of the industrial classes. I therefore submit, that so far as regards the most urgent, and I may say the only material point, of the question, viz., the increase of scholars, it is evident that progress has been made to a certain extent.

3. Perhaps I might observe here, that, notwithstanding this progress, considerable room for improvement still remains, when reference is had to the introduction of a superior class of teachers; those at present having the charge of the schools are principally persons of the same colour and class as the children over whom they preside; and probably, a considerable portion of them have obtained the knowledge they possess—almost in every instance limited—in some charity or Sunday school, and consequently are not efficient enough to be placed at the head and have the conducting of a school of—at an average—from 50 to 100 children per diem; and who, from their limited knowledge, and not

having an inspector to direct the course of studies to be pursued by the scholars, come to an erroneous conclusion, and, instead of imparting that knowledge which is alone necessary to a labouring population, such as reading, writing, arithmetic, &c., deeming themselves competent to instruct in a higher form of learning, in some measure do away with the efficacy of these schools, and counteract the principal object of the Legislature, by partially neglecting that description of instruction which is most necessary, for a useless course of studies as when viewed in connexion with a labouring people.

4. Having animadverted on the incompetency of the master at present in charge, it devolves on me to state, in order to obviate any injurious impression that might possibly be made by my remarks on those who are ignorant of the fact, that the Act under which a fund was provided for educational purposes, and under which authority the schools were established, having expired, another bill is now before the Legislature, which seeks to place education on a better footing.

5. Under the previous Act a fund was raised by a tax levied upon provision lands for the especial purpose of education, but which fund being found inadequate to meet the expenses incurred by the "Board of Education"—to whose care the schools are intrusted—they were obliged, in the first instance, to apply to the Legislature for a loan; the necessary consequence being, that as one loan was repaid another had to be applied for, thus always involving the Board in debt, and therefore preventing their making any improvement in the class of teachers.

6. It must, however, be different under the new bill, as it is sought by its provisions to appropriate the sum of 500*l.* per annum for educational purposes, to be paid out of the general revenue of the island, thereby guarding against the chance which existed under the old Act—a failure in the article on which the tax was levied—and therefore no risk of the amount for educational purposes being reduced. It also provides that a sum not exceeding 100*l.* may be annually expended by the officer administering the government to secure the services of a competent inspector of schools.

7. Under these circumstances there must necessarily be far greater improvement than hitherto, as the Board of Education will be enabled to command the services of an efficient inspector, whose duty it will be to arrange and have carried out, such a course of learning as he might think requisite for children of an inferior class; and who will also attend and examine at certain times and places all children connected with the schools under his superintendence. A system such as this cannot fail to stimulate the energies of the children, and thus accelerate the progress of the schools.

8. Taking into consideration the prospects of improvements held out by the new enactment referred to, and the partial progress made in the schools, even under the injudicious system of irresponsible schoolmasters, there appears to be every encouragement for promoting this absolutely necessary measure.

I have, &c.
ROBERT MÄDER,
Acting Honorary Secretary.

C. W. N. Hardtman, Esq.,
Private Secretary.

Sub-Enclosure 2.

NUMBER of CONVICTS sentenced to Death, or to Imprisonment, or Imprisonment with Hard Labour for the Year 1858.

CRIMES.

1*st. Against the Person:*—		
Assaults	31	
Assaults with intent to do grevious bodily harm	7	
Assault with intent to murder	nil	
Culpable homicide	nil	
Murder (executed)	nil	
Rape or assault with intent	3	
Unnatural offences or attempts	1	
		42
2*nd. Against Property with Violence:*—		
House, &c. breaking with intent to steal, and theft	1	
Robbery	1	
		2
3*rd. Against Property without Violence:*—		
Cattle, horse, and sheep stealing	7	
Receipt of stolen goods and theft	49	
Embezzlement	nil	
Frauds	1	
Vagrant Act	1	
		58
4*th. Malicious Offences against Property:*		
Arson	nil	
Forgery	2	
Other malicious injury of property	nil	
		2

St. Kitts.

5th. Other Offences:—

Abusive language	29	
Aiding persons to escape	nil	
Contempt of court	1	
Conspiracy	nil	
Contract Act	20	
Cruelty to animals	1	
Disorderly conduct	30	
Exposing person	1	
Forcible possession	nil	
Game laws	1	
Merchant Seaman's Act	1	
Perjury	nil	
Petty Trespass Act	4	
Pound breach	1	
Resisting police	8	
Revenue Laws	1	
Unauthorized detention of property	1	
Uttering counterfeit coin	nil	
Porter and Boatman's Act	1	
Furious driving	2	
	102	
Total		206

Henry James Ross,
Chief Justice.

Nevis.

NEVIS.

No. 15.

No. 15.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Governor Ker B. Hamilton to the Right Hon. Sir E. Bulwer Lytton Bart., M.P.

(No. 37.)

Leeward Islands, Antigua, February 26, 1859.
(Received March 21, 1859.)

Sir,

No. 7. 17 Jan. 1859. 17 Jan. 1859. Nevis, No. 26 Feb. 1859.

I have the honour to transmit the Blue Book of Nevis for the year 1858, with a Despatch from President Sir Arthur Rumbold, and his Report.

2. I enclose copy of my reply to Sir Arthur Rumbold; and I avail myself of this opportunity to request your attention to his successful exertions, in conjunction with those of the Council and Assembly, in placing the finances of that Island, which for a long period had been in a state of embarrassment, on a creditable footing.

I have, &c.
(Signed) KER B. HAMILTON.

The Right Hon. Sir E. B. Lytton, Bart., M.P.
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure in No. 15.

Encl. in No. 15.

COPY of a DESPATCH from President Sir ARTHUR RUMBOLD to his Excellency the Governor-in-Chief.

(No. 7.)

SIR, Nevis, January 17, 1859.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith my Report on the Blue Book for this Colony for 1858, as also that document itself in triplicate.

2. It affords me much pleasure to point out the success which has crowned the financial effects of the year, and I feel grateful for your Excellency's support in sanctioning the measures which have enabled the Colony to achieve these results.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ARTHUR RUMBOLD.

His Excellency the Governor-in-Chief,
&c. &c. &c.

Sub-Enclosure 1.

Sub-Encl. 1.

REPORT on the BLUE BOOK for 1858.

Nevis, 17th January 1859.

Revenue and Expenditure.

1. The Revenue presents the remarkable feature of being the largest collected in Nevis during the space of twenty-one years. I am inclined to think, indeed, that it will be found to be the largest ever collected in the Colony. I have, however, no means of ascertaining this from existing colonial records, as I find the following entry in the Blue Book for 1838:—"The books and vouchers of the preceding years were all destroyed in "the fire which took place in Charlestown on the 18th April, and consequently no com- "parative statement can be made."

2. I have compiled the following Table, which is the most correct that I can obtain from local sources of information.

A RETURN exhibiting the Revenue and Imports from 1838 to 1858, both years inclusive.

Year.	Revenue.	Imports.
	£	£
1838	4,029	33,898
1839	4,096	47,199
1840	4,002	33,628
1841	4,961	32,957
1842	3,873	40,404
1843	4,634	44,985
1844	5,109	39,253
1845	4,714	39,888
1846	4,148	36,778
1847	5,927	37,103
1848	3,211	21,261
1849	3,033	16,080
1850	3,262	16,474
1851	3,755	16,483
1852	3,601	17,866
1853	3,065	20,975
1854	4,252	20,953
1855	3,442	19,728
1856	3,420	34,449
1857	3,283	36,254
1858	6,433	36,721

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3. By the above Table it will be seen that in no one year comprised therein has the revenue amounted to 6,000*l.* The income of the year 1847, which nearly approaches that figure, was swollen by the amount of 2,400*l.*, part of a loan granted by Her Majesty's Government to aid the Colony in the re-construction of certain public buildings which had been thrown down by an earthquake.

4. The result of this large revenue has been most gratifying, while I may truly aver that no distress has been caused by its collection. The local debt has been entirely cleared off, and a large sum has been paid towards the erection of the new gaol. Several of the causeways have also been materially improved and repaired.

5. The financial condition of the Colony may be considered as satisfactory, a revenue equivalent to the maintenance and regular payment of the fixed establishment is assured for the next five years, and I reasonably calculate that a sufficient surplus will subsist wherewith all moderate, incidental, and miscellaneous charges may be punctually discharged.

6. It is in contemplation to increase the revenue by a moderate tonnage or package duty. I should view with reluctance any excessive charge on shipping, as many transient traders call in, in consequence of there being no port charges; but I cannot overlook the great advantage which would accrue to commerce by the erection, as is proposed, of a wooden lighthouse on the point near Fort Charles, off which I regret to say two colonial droghers were wrecked this year; while the further desideratum of adding to the comforts of the Asylum, by fitting it up as a hospital for the reception of invalid seamen, is a purpose to which such a tax would be most legitimately applicable, and if levied on an equitable and moderate scale no detriment to trade would result, especially if imposed on the principle of paying either so much on each package actually landed, or a certain amount per ton, at the option of the trader. On such a basis the addition to the revenue would be welcome and proper.

7. It is further in contemplation to impose, or rather to re-impose, the tax of 4*s.* per head on horned stock not used on or belonging to sugar estates, with a view to appropriate the revenue derived therefrom to give a fixed salary to two or more medical practitioners, for the purpose of attending all persons whose poverty prevents them from paying for medical advice. I should be glad to see some of the sources of direct taxation maintained, as I am of opinion that a combination of systems is the one best adapted for a West Indian community, and though the bulk of taxation must inevitably be collected from indirect sources, it is unwise to pretermit all direct taxation. However desirable a tax to ensure skilled medical attendance, under proper regulations, would be, I conceive that the imposition of a direct tax, in addition, as an equivalent to a vote for the election of a member of Assembly, would prove a proper source of revenue, and would enhance the value of the franchise, which is now exercised without any knowledge of its constitutional worth and bearing. This, combined with the appropriation of a portion of the revenue derived from direct taxes, either on horned cattle or on provision grounds, to the payment of salaries to competent teachers, and for the purchase of elementary works, would advance that most important object, the onward progress of the favoured race which inhabits these islands, and which is gradually, though unquestionably, becoming the predominant one.

Public Works.

8. The most urgent want of this community has been supplied;—a commodious gaol has been erected, and is so far completed as to admit of the reception of the prisoners at present undergoing the sentence of the law. When completed, a spacious ward will be provided for sick prisoners, and proper rooms for the incarceration of debtors. It is also possible that some part of the premises may be turned to account so as to admit of the erection of a barrack for the police. It is with no ordinary feelings of thankfulness that I record this result, the attainment of which has caused me many an anxious hour. It is, moreover, doubly gratifying to know that the erection of the Island Prison has been hitherto accomplished and paid for without the imposition of any additional tax.

Legislation.

9. Thirteen Acts have passed the three branches. An Act to impose Import Duties has been crowned with signal success. An Act to establish a Police Force has proved a most effectual check to crime in its early stages, and by its combination with an Act for the maintenance of good order in Nevis certain offences are wholesomely brought under police jurisdiction.

10. Two Acts assimilating the criminal law to that of the mother country cannot fail to have a beneficial effect.

11. An Act which provides for the compilation and printing of the laws of Nevis has been also published. Under its provisions the statutes of the Colony will at length be clearly defined and duly promulgated, while the defects of past and imperfect legislation will be obliterated.

12. An Act to regulate the relative duties of masters and servants is worthy of notice, as being a first step in the right direction, to remove the painful impression produced by my predecessor's remarks in his Report on the Blue Book for 1855, wherein he says, " the planters continue to this day to cultivate their estates without any law of contract " to define the relations and regulate the duties incumbent respectively upon master and " servant."

13. Finally, an Act to amend the Import Act, and to collect certain export duties, has closed the year 1858. By its duration clause of five years I entertain the hope that for that period of time a fixed average revenue of 4,000*l.* a year is assured to Nevis, and that thus the vexed question of raising a revenue adequate to the ordinary requirements of the Colony may be looked on as set at rest for that period.

Population and Education.

14. The population is on the increase, as the births exceed the deaths by 113, but the number of deaths exceeds those of the past year by 68. Education has remained stationary, but with an increased revenue there is now a prospect of its being properly fostered and encouraged.

Imports.

15. By the Table which follows the second paragraph of this Report it appears that in 1847 the value of the imports amounted to 37,103*l.* In the year immediately succeeding 1848 the control of the customs fell under colonial supervision, and the figure of the imports presented a marked diminution, until 1856, in March of which year an Act which repealed all customs duties came into force, and immediately afterwards the declared values of imports again approached the figure at which they stood when under the Imperial control. It is now my pleasing duty to point out, that though the customs duties have been reimposed, and though under colonial supervision, the values have remained steady, and closely approximate the estimate of 1847. The amount of duty, 3,141*l.*, though collected only for eleven months of the year, nearly equals any amount collected under the Imperial regime during a period of twelve months. It is my conviction that this amount can be fully maintained; while by the outlay of a trifling salary for an additional officer the revenue of this department might be greatly increased and consolidated. In connexion with the imports it is worthy of remark, that the Act abolishing customs duties did not have the effect of increasing the amount in value of the imports, but simply brought them back to the declared value at which they stood when the duties were strictly collected.

Tonnage and Shipping.

16. The tonnage returns prove that the trade of the port has not been checked by the re-imposition of duties. These rarely fluctuate much; but on comparing the years 1857 and 1858, this latter year presents an excess on British vessels with cargoes inwards of 713 tons, on foreign vessels with cargoes inwards an excess of 2,970 tons, on British vessels with cargoes outwards an excess of 2,576 tons, and on foreign vessels with cargoes outwards an excess of 2,131 tons. The excess on the outward tonnage is probably attributable to the increased crop, but it also evidences a large extension of foreign trade.

Exports.

17. The crop of 1858 exceeds that of 1857 by 700 hogsheads, and a fair value has been received for the staples of the Island. The abundance of the harvest has almost compensated for its decreased value compared with that of last year. The Treasurer has this year assumed the value of a hogshead of sugar to be 14*l.*, in place of 20*l.*, the rate at which it was estimated last year. The agricultural interests of the Island are unquestionably advancing.

Conclusion.

18. Results in a Colony so small must necessarily be circumscribed; but I rejoice, in this my Third Report on Nevis, to be able to state, that, in place of two years being

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required to redeem her local debts, as I surmised in my Report on last year's Blue Book, her own efforts and elasticity of resource have sufficed, without extraneous aid, to effect this in less than one year.

19. A favourable contrast as to the efficiency of the Secretary's office may be drawn on a comparison with the presumed state of that office in 1854, on perusing the then Colonial Secretary's letter on the completion of the Blue Book for that year. The day on which the Blue Book for 1858 is forwarded speaks for the change in that department. It is gratifying to me to state, that, with scarcely an exception, the public officers appear to appreciate punctual payment, and fulfil more zealously their several duties.

20. Singularly opportune seasons afford the prospect of a most abundant harvest. The planters look forward to one nearly as large as that of 1847. With a steady trade, unchecked by excessive duties, and unfettered by unnecessary restrictions, with the prospect also of a large crop, I fairly assume for the Colony a more promising state of things than has been attained these many long years. Contentment and plenty are the constant handmaids and harbingers of advancing civilization.

ARTHUR RUMBOLD.

Sub-Encl. 2.

Sub-Enclosure 2.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor KER B. HAMILTON to President Sir ARTHUR RUMBOLD, Bart.

Antigua, Government House,
February 26, 1859.

SIR,

I have received your Despatch, No. 7, of 17th January, with the Blue Book for the year 1858, and your Report.

2. The improved state into which the public revenue has been brought since your administration of the government of Nevis reflects the highest credit on yourself and Legislative bodies of that Island.

3. The favoured condition of the proprietary body, and the contentment of the people, show that there was no disadvantage attending a taxation adequate to meet the public requirements. The country the least taxed is not therefore the most favoured; but that country is the most prosperous where the people enjoy protection and find remunerative employment, and which raises a sufficient revenue for the public service by taxes, which are not felt unequal by any class, and do not bear onerously upon the industry of the people.

4. These are among the elements of prosperity; and the happy results of recent legislation will, I trust, encourage you and the Legislative Houses to persevere in the furtherance of those just principles which have been recognized and acted upon.

5. It will be borne in mind, that while taxation in the form of light and port duties is admissible for the safety and convenience of navigation, no burthen must be put on shipping to raise a revenue for internal purposes.

6. I enclose a copy of my Despatch, forwarding to the Secretary of State the Blue Book and your Report.

I have, &c.

Sir Arthur Rumbold, Bart., M.P.
&c. &c. &c.

(Signed) KER B. HAMILTON.

VIRGIN ISLANDS.

No. 16.

No. 16.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-Governor HERCULES G. R. ROBINSON to the Right Hon. Sir E. BULWER LYTTON, Bart., M.P.

(No. 59.)

Leeward Islands, Antigua,
9 April, 1859.
(Received May 3, 1859.)

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit the Blue Book of the Virgin Islands for the year 1858, with President Price's Report thereon.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERCULES G. R. ROBINSON,
Lieutenant-Governor,
Administering General Government.

The Right Hon.
Sir E. B. Lytton, Bart., M.P.
&c. &c.

Enclosure in No. 16.

Encl. in No. 16.

(No. 27.)

Government House, Tortola,
March 19, 1859.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit the Blue Book of 1858 for the Colony of the Virgin Islands.

2. The principal portion of the remedial measures applied by the lately elected Council having been passed in the earlier part of the present year, I will not enlarge upon their provisions; but perhaps, as the period at which I am called upon to furnish the returns dates rather later than the year to which they refer, I may be excused, upon the plea of furnishing intelligence as recent as circumstances admit, for cursorily mentioning ordinances which will be necessarily referred to more at large on a future occasion.

Financial.

3. As compared with the two previous years, the public accounts exhibit an extraordinary increase of liabilities. On my arrival in March 1857 I found a debt due, public officers of about 140*l.*, and it has increased to 534*l.* 8*s.* 3*d.*, less 43*l.* 11*s.* 2*d.* cash in hand.

The increase is thus accounted for:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Debt 28th February 1857 on the current account - - -	144	13	11½
Two years instalment of the loan to Honourable R. G. Pedder -	207	17	3
Net deficient comparative revenue - - - - - -	138	5	10½
Current debt, 31st December 1858 - - -	£490	17	1

4. The only observation necessary is, that no prevision was exercised by the Legislature to meet Mr. Pedder's loan; and the obstructives of 1858 would listen to no proposals for adjustment of the account, more particularly, as it seemed to me, because the sufferers were their public officials. A season of unusual drought influenced unfavourably the export of commodities liable to duty, and the general permanent revenue was suffered to continue in its insufficiency. The import duty on flour and corn meal, and the land tax of January 1859, will probably shortly restore the public accounts to a better condition, with little, if any, additional taxation; and as the "loan" will be extinguished

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in 1861, there seems ground for a hope that, subsequently, a reduction may be permitted, without danger, to take effect.

5. The item of 50*l.* on the "School Account" requires an explanation, or it might be inferred that a grant had been made in 1858 for educational purposes, which, although provided for, prospectively, in 1860, it is not the case. The poverty of the Treasury rendered a settlement of salary on the retirement of the Reverend Robert Matson a matter of some difficulty; and upon my sanctioning the assumption by the Colony of the payment, pro tanto, to the school teachers in 1859 of the salaries provided by the Bishop, his Lordship consented to an arrangement by which he placed the Colony in a condition to effect a settlement with the retiring ecclesiastical officer. It is therefore rather a "misnomer" to entitle this debit as purely on the school account, but it does not seem a very important one.

6. Nothing extraordinary has affected the current expenditure of the past year; and the remark at the head of this branch of my Report would seem to sum up all that need be said on the matter of finance; a simple and perfectly accountable increase of debt, without any extraordinary drain upon the Treasury.

Trade and Commerce.

7. The occasional arrival of a small coasting vessel, for the purpose of purchasing cattle or horses, and the constant running of canoes and small sloops between this Island and St. Thomas, just mark that the outward trade has not wholly expired, but little more. The year 1858 having been marked by unusually dry weather, the production of sugar merely satisfied local requirements, leaving perhaps about fifty hogsheads (shipped in barrels) to spare for export. The drought extended its effects to every branch of agricultural industry; and the people had recourse either to the unfailing labour market of St. Thomas or to the occupation of burning charcoal. This latter pursuit was much and wisely encouraged by the Legislature in 1857 reducing the export duty on charcoal to the extent of one third, and the success which has financially attended that measure has induced a similar change in the export duty upon lime.

8. The present unhappy state of the commerce of the Colony will probably continue until the recently passed land tax may bring parcels of land into the market, or capitalists may be attracted by the salubrity, productiveness of and cheapness of living in the Virgin Islands. There is nothing, except the increase in the export of charcoal, at all noticeable in the trade statistics of 1858.

Legislation.

9. The greater part of the year 1858 was frittered away by the then existing Legislative Council in petty disputes, not only among themselves but with the President. It was evident, at a very early date, that there was a majority of members who must have sought the distinction of being legislators, more for the gratification of personal vanity, and in order to display their powers of opposition for its own sake, than with any determination whatever to address their abilities, such as they were, to the extrication of the Colony from its gathering difficulties. This state of things could not be permitted to last. Had it done so, disorder of the most dangerous character must have resulted. With a decree of patience and forbearance of which till then I never believed myself possessed, I suffered matters to proceed to a point which it was easy to see impending, when the bounds which had hitherto withheld these individuals would be disregarded, and the executive authority set at nought. The moment, happily for the future of the Colony, arrived in due time, when, finding there was a majority of members favourable to low and disreputable confusion, and of insult, moreover, to myself, I settled the question by a sudden and extemporaneous dissolution from my seat at the Board.

10. Owing to a neglect of registration on the part of the friends of the obstructive members, a new Council was collected possessing my confidence, and desirous of remedying, as far as possible, the evils which the inaction (except for mischief) of the previous Council had entailed upon the country; and the Blue Book for 1859 will record, no doubt, the passage, in the first two or three months of that year, of measures on which, for extrication from difficulty and for future advancement, some reliance may fairly and hopefully be placed; viz., for imposing an import duty on flour and corn meal, a tax upon land, reduction of export duty on lime, sale of encumbered estates, increase of provision for poor, grant for education, and last, but practically most important, amendment of the constitution.

11. Refractory and obstructive as that memorable collection of legislators undoubtedly in its majority was, however, their acquiescence was obtained for two measures of

considerable value; one authorizing the taking of a census, and the other for a registration of births, marriages, and deaths. The census of 3d of January 1859, although properly appertaining to the returns for that year, deals so closely with the condition of the previous one that I do not hesitate to append it, together with a very reasonable and sufficiently explanatory report from the Colonial Secretary, Mr. George H. A. Porter, to this return. They disclose the existence of a considerable juvenile population, of whose future services the Colony will, I hope, avail itself for usefully directed labour. When due allowance is made for the number of persons under 10 and over 60 years of age, the list of unemployed residents is reduced to not unusual limits.

12. Two other rather useful ordinances were obtained from the same Council; one for curtailing the restrictions previously fettering the exercise of the legal profession, and another relating to the recovery of petty debts.

Crime.

13. Whatever value may be attached to the example afforded of criminal executions in other parts of the world, there can be little doubt that a great and salutary effect in this Colony has been produced by the execution, in April 1858, of three persons found guilty of murders of the most atrocious character. The justice of and necessity for this terrible example were recognized, I believe, without exception, by the entire population. The effect has been the reduction of the numbers of prisoners for both large and small offences, and the general dispersion of the previously prevailing idea, that it had pleased the Queen to order the immunity, in the case of black criminals, from the last great penalty of the law.

14. The current expenditure for the gaol has consequently been very sensibly reduced. It is in tolerably fair order, but requires repair.

15. I append a return of criminal statistics prepared by the proper officer.

Education.

16. I transmit a report from the Reader of the Established Church (the Honourable R. G. Pedder) on the subject of the progress of the schools, and one from the Reverend F. T. Turtle, Wesleyan Minister, on the same subject. Provision has been made for affording from 1860 some trifling assistance in aid of education.

General Remarks.

17. Towards the close of 1858 there was an unhappy concurrence of events upon which it was sought unduly and unfairly to excite the public mind. A general conviction seemed to exist that the evil spirit of a portion of the population would evince itself in some overt act of violence such as that of 1853. In the utter absence of any police or militia force (both provided for subsequently, however), it was necessary for me to make a communication on the subject of the state of the country to the general constabulary body. This procedure was attended with the happiest effect, which being greatly confirmed by the subsequent unlooked-for but most opportune arrival of a British Man-of-War (the "Atalanta"), the tranquillity of the country was restored, and matters resumed their customary regularity. The leaven which has so mischievously been suffered to intermix in political affairs, however, is of such a character, that, in my opinion, nothing short of a total revision of the Constitution Ordinance can secure permanent peace to an administrator of the Government, or, indirectly, give security to property,—a measure, undoubtedly wise and salutary at the time, which has had the ultimate effect of introducing such a vast power of obstruction, but which, to render it usefully available, argues the presence of talent, loyalty, and appreciation of order to a far greater extent than, amongst a majority in the classes of electors and elected, can be said to exist at present, perpetuates the difficulty of securing any reasonable amount of progress.

18. A crisis, such as recently occurred, may certainly for a time alarm the lovers of order, and advantage may again be taken of the re-action which usually ensues; but this is hardly a wholesome condition of affairs, and the remedy can only be sought in a measure which, if it admits persons to the privileges of legislation, wholly incapable of performing its duties, (some of whom can neither read nor write,) may at least render innocuous their little displays of "patriotism." Meantime, in the absence of such a change, let us hope the schoolmaster is instilling safer and better principles into the rising generation, and that the fruit will be gathered in due season.

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The prospective opening of the mines at Virgin Gorda with so reasonable a prospect of success will at any rate afford such an opportunity of active employment to the idlers of the population as may possibly divert their minds from the dangerous and evil habit of dwelling upon and exaggerating grievances of their own simple creation.

19. In the main, the population are lovers of order; and I do not think it at all fair to qualify in any respect the opinion I announced in my Report on the Blue Book of 1857. That opinion was not, I think, unreasonably complimentary to the bulk of the population.

20. I believe that much of the resistance to taxation of late years has arisen from a prevailing feeling that men could be found ready to undertake the duties of public officers for considerably less money than those gentlemen now receive. Undoubtedly this might be done here, as it might be done elsewhere; but the advocates of this opinion should remember, that quality is a more important ingredient than quantity of official labour, in a question of this character, and that their fancied superiority scarcely justifies the practice hitherto prevailing of allowing public officers' pay to fall so largely into arrear, more especially in the face of engagements which it devolves upon the Colony to fulfil.

21. The future of the Virgin Islands can hardly fail to be beneficially influenced by measures which may place its finances on a sounder footing, facilitate the acquisition of land, and amend the constitution, by rendering it less than heretofore likely that any but those possessing some qualifications for the duty will seek the distinction of a seat at the legislative board. There is undoubtedly a great and safe field for the application of capital and industry; and of the whole Caribbean group of islands, probably, in point of sanitary advantages, these islands may claim to rank at the head. The closer my acquaintance with the Colony, the less disposed am I to qualify in any single respect the tenor of my general observations of last year on the subject of natural advantages enjoyed by the inhabitants. It is unnecessary to repeat them here. As a sugar producing Colony it is wholly worthless. As a nursery for stock of all descriptions, and as a home for the free negro, with his propensities and habits, it is possessed of a high value, and deserves all the encouragement that Government can afford.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. PRICE,
President.

To his Excellency the Governor-in-Chief,
&c. &c. &c.

March 24, 1859.

P.S.—I am happy to be able to record the adoption by the Council, on the 21st instant, of a measure (not, however, to take effect until Her Majesty's pleasure be known,) for reducing the number of its elective members from six to four, and making such other alterations in respect of the mode of conducting both the registration of voters and the elections themselves as will probably give a very favourable turn to public affairs in the Colony.

J. PRICE.

Account of the Population, and other Statistical Information, taken on the 3d day of January 1859.

District.	Males.							Females.							Total.		Temporary Absentees.		Birth-place.					Complexion.			Religious Denomination.				Occupation.									Tenure.			Houses.		Total Population.		
	Under 10 Years.	From 10 to 20.	20 to 30.	30 to 40.	40 to 50.	50 to 60.	60 & upwards.	Under 10 Years.	From 10 to 20.	20 to 30.	30 to 40.	40 to 50.	50 to 60.	60 & upwards.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Virgin Islands.	Other W. I. Colonies.	Great Britain and Ireland.	United States.	Elsewhere.	Black.	White.	Mixed Blood.	Church of England.	Wesleyans.	Other.	Nil.	Professional and Official.	Commercial.	Agricultural. Planter.	Agricultural. Laborer.	Mechanics.	Domesties.	Miscellaneous.	Unemployed.	Freehold.	Leasehold.	Tenancy at Will.	Occupied.	Unoccupied.	Island.	Males.	Females.
No. 1	33	16	14	7	8	5	12	30	14	15	11	9	14	12	95	105	3	1	193	3	1	.	3	150	3	47	33	167	.	.	1	.	11	46	9	5	46	82	27	.	31	55	3			
„ 2	51	31	27	21	5	7	43	53	38	36	15	12	27	41	185	222	25	25	306	14	.	.	87	373	.	34	129	273	.	5	.	3	4	69	6	1	87	237	86	11	25	111	3			
„ 3	28	36	9	9	8	9	11	32	12	11	13	9	6	17	110	100	8	1	205	1	.	.	4	189	.	21	.	210	.	.	.	.	.	96	7	.	22	85	.	55	.	55	.			
„ 4	47	68	25	12	15	23	15	55	33	28	16	33	21	32	205	218	35	27	409	8	.	.	6	408	.	15	2	262	.	159	.	.	.	236	5	.	8	124	13	22	85	120	3			
„ 5	76	62	35	34	28	21	23	71	58	53	31	40	33	23	279	309	25	23	572	7	1	.	8	562	7	19	9	434	.	145	.	.	3	288	14	2	34	247	15	77	67	159	4			
„ 6	21	39	16	18	10	10	6	29	19	14	12	16	4	11	120	105	1	2	207	12	.	.	6	215	1	9	.	99	.	126	.	.	1	112	3	2	31	76	2	.	56	58	.	Tortola.	1,797	2,095
„ 7	38	44	9	10	6	10	7	33	20	15	20	8	13	16	124	125	.	.	239	4	6	.	.	213	7	29	31	218	.	.	1	.	1	88	2	5	21	131	30	1	16	48	.			
„ 8	67	48	18	19	16	17	19	40	37	22	22	18	28	21	204	188	6	.	367	20	1	.	4	331	12	49	17	239	.	136	2	2	1	188	4	24	16	155	10	2	88	92	2			
„ 9	27	30	10	11	12	15	6	29	39	22	14	10	11	6	111	131	.	.	221	18	.	.	3	174	1	67	5	119	.	118	.	.	8	38	2	2	85	107	14	1	32	48	2			
„ 10	34	19	12	20	15	13	8	45	24	24	17	16	10	19	121	155	.	.	252	17	.	.	7	256	1	19	12	140	2	122	1	1	3	149	1	3	4	114	.	.	72	72	.			
„ 19	68	45	41	27	23	19	20	97	100	69	41	43	45	42	243	437	10	8	604	58	7	2	9	324	80	276	272	397	9	2	10	10	5	42	42	49	174	348	103	16	26	152	6			
„ 11	13	18	3	8	6	2	4	29	11	8	6	7	2	3	54	57	.	.	98	13	.	.	.	102	5	4	1	56	.	54	.	.	1	2	.	2	53	53	1	.	18	19	1	Great Thatch Id.	54	57
	9	4	.	.	3	1	3	5	5	4	3	5	1	4	20	27	3	.	46	1	.	.	.	43	.	4	7	24	.	16	.	.	1	15	1	.	7	23	5	.	6	11	3	Frenchman's Quay.	20	27
„ 12	77	47	23	19	28	7	11	53	40	51	19	28	13	17	212	321	87	74	407	22	1	.	3	353	2	78	25	95	5	308	.	.	12	94	7	.	77	243	61	7	39	99	18	Jost Van Dykes.	212	221
13	5	7	1	2	1	1	.	7	5	1	2	3	1	1	17	20	1	1	36	1	.	.	.	22	12	3	21	14	.	2	1	.	1	6	2	5	7	15	3	1	2	3	2	Beref Island.	17	20
	9	17	3	4	.	1	1	13	4	3	4	3	.	2	35	29	1	.	64	.	.	.	.	5	.	59	.	64	.	.	.	.	.	2	.	.	29	33	6	.	.	8	.	Caymanos.	35	29
	.	1	.	.	.	.	1	.	1	.	1	.	.	1	2	3	.	.	4	1	.	.	.	5	.	.	.	5	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	1	3	1	.	.	1	.	Buck Island.	2	3
„ 14	85	43	34	15	17	8	15	82	40	39	32	9	10	11	217	223	7	.	438	2	.	.	.	359	5	76	16	298	.	126	.	.	.	227	3	.	63	147	80	.	.	80	.	Virgen Gorda.	393	447
„ 15	50	44	29	21	13	10	9	61	38	38	28	23	20	16	176	224	25	3	386	10	.	.	4	175	40	185	124	206	.	70	1	.	6	142	9	16	97	129	73	1	17	88	14			
„ 16	50	32	11	9	12	7	8	71	28	18	20	15	6	11	129	169	11	.	290	2	.	.	6	109	10	179	59	233	.	6	.	1	20	35	4	19	61	158	7	.	52	59	1	Anegada.	196	254
„ 17	19	16	12	11	6	.	3	30	18	13	10	7	3	4	67	85	7	2	151	.	.	.	1	30	5	117	15	137	.	.	.	1	.	75	3	7	26	40	16	.	2	18	.			
„ 18	4	12	7	2	1	2	1	7	7	11	1	1	2	4	29	33	2	5	61	1	.	.	.	14	1	47	3	57	.	2	.	.	.	.	.	4	48	10	.	.	15	15	5	Salt Island.	29	33
	8	10	14	3	4	7	3	24	7	12	7	4	3	6	49	63	1	1	111	.	.	.	1	74	9	29	.	111	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	2	68	42	25	1	5	31	6	Peter's Island.	49	63
Totals	819	689	353	282	237	195	229	887	598	507	345	319	273	320	2,804	3,249	258	173	5,667	215	17	2	152	4,486	201	1,366	781	3,858	16	1,398	17	18	78	2,000	125	148	1,065	2,602	578	195	654	1,402	73		2,804	3,249

VIRGIN ISLANDS.

TABLE II.

ACCOUNT of Expenses incurred in taking the Census on 3d January 1859.

	£	s.	d.
For stationery	0	13	6
„ preparing forms for enumerators	1	9	2
„ constables' services (17)	3	5	10½
„ boat expenses to the quays	1	5	6
„ two enumerators	0	16	6
„ clerk hire, copying returns, &c.	1	2	8¼
	8	13	2¾

Sub-Enclosure.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Tortola,
February 10, 1859.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward a Tabular Statement of the Census taken on the 3d January last, and to subjoin the following remarks upon it.

2. The information required to be obtained seems to me to have been sought for and acquired by the enumerators with the greatest diligence and care, and, as far as I am able to judge, is as correct as the scattered population of these Islands would admit, and, in fact, as such statistical returns in general are. I may here remark, that the enumerators, with but two exceptions, performed this duty gratuitously, with only the attendance of one or two constables in each district, who have been paid for their day's service.

The expense incurred amounted in the whole to 8*l.* 13*s.* 2¾*d.*, as per Table II.

3. The total population of the Virgin Islands, on the night of the 2d January, exhibited by Table I., shows a decrease, as compared with the Census of 1841, of 636, from which, if the temporary absentees (431) be taken, there will still be a decrease of 205. This decrease is small, when we consider the great mortality in these Islands in the years 1853 and 1854, from Asiatic cholera, amounting, as nearly as could be computed, to 1,000 persons. The absence, until the present year, of any regular registration of births and deaths, precludes the possibility of giving an approximate statement of the population immediately previous to that epidemic.

4. The returns in the Blue Books, from 1842 to 1857 inclusive, of baptisms and burials, show, of the former 3,532, and of the latter 882, to which last add 1,000 who died of cholera (few of whom received interment with the usual religious offices, and therefore no record was made of their burials), will make 1,882, which, taken from 3,532, baptisms, would show 1,650 as increase since the last Census (1841). But I fear these returns are not to be depended on as giving a correct statement of the mortality, since it is well known that many persons die, and no record is made of their burials, as the services over them are performed by their friends, although I should say certainly not to the extent which the deficiency would indicate.

5. To the constant withdrawal of our labourers to the coaling wharves of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company at St. Thomas I think is attributable the comparative small numbers, of men especially, of the middle age. By reference to Table I. it will be seen that out of a population of 6,053 there are 1,706 children under 10 years, and 549 persons over 60 years, making together 2,255, being over one third of the whole population.

6. The want of capital by the landed proprietors for the development of the resources of the soil, caused chiefly by the absence of trade with the larger colonies which the foreign Island of St. Thomas seems to monopolize, tends in a great measure to the emigration so constantly carried on from these islands to St. Thomas, where labourers of every description can, at the coaling depôt, easily find employment; and they constantly leave their aged parents at home, with the promise of assistance,—a promise which is very rarely fulfilled, and the infirm are therefore thrown for support either on the Colony or the charity of friends.

7. There appear to be no less than 1,398 persons who acknowledge to no particular sect of religion. This, I take it, is explained in the following manner:—Many, although

they have themselves been and have had their infants baptized in the Established Church, yet will not admit that they or their offspring belong to that establishment, and not having actually joined (although they certainly incline towards) the Wesleyans, are not considered as belonging to that body, and there is no other established sect in these Islands. The last information furnished by the Wesleyan ministers for the Blue Book shows, that about 3,000 persons generally attend their public services, while only 1,698 are actually members; the difference between this number and those in Table I., appearing to be Wesleyans, would therefore seem to be made up by the children of the members of that society.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEO. H. A. PORTER,
Colonial Secretary.

Thomas Price, Esq.,
President administering the Government.

MEMORANDUM of REPORT of the WESLEYAN DAY and SUNDAY SCHOOLS in the BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS.

Tortola, March 19, 1859.

Tortola.—The day school at Road Town numbers at present 41 boys and 19 girls, making a total of 60 scholars. Of these 38 are able to read the Scriptures, which is a daily exercise of the school. This school is efficiently conducted, the teacher extending his instructions to the teaching of grammar and geography, in addition to reading, writing, and arithmetic. Particular attention is paid to the catechetical instruction of the children.

The day school at West End numbered 48 scholars at the end of the year 1858, namely, 26 boys and 22 girls. This school is of humble pretensions, the teacher not going much beyond the teaching of reading and writing, not omitting, of course, the usual catechetical and other religious instruction which generally characterises our schools. The attendance has declined since the commencement of the present year.

Three Sabbath schools continue in operation in Tortola, namely, those at Road Town, West End, and East End. The total number of scholars at the close of 1858 was 348, who were instructed by 40 teachers.

It is in contemplation to establish a day school at East End very shortly.

The schools at Jost Van Dykes have been suspended for some months, in consequence of the death of the teacher of the day school in October last, but it is hoped that both the day and Sabbath schools will be recommenced during the present year.

A day school has been established at Anegada during the past year, which numbered 30 scholars in December, and the number has since increased.

(Signed) W. T. TURTLE,
Wesleyan Missionary.

REPORT upon the GAOL and GAOL ESTABLISHMENT for the Year ended 31 December 1858.

Tortola, January 1, 1859.

No alteration has been made in the Gaol or Establishment since the last Report, except that the four solitary cells in the yard have been abandoned as unfit for the reception of prisoners.

Prisoners for solitary confinement are placed in the rooms divided in the north lower room of the Gaol.

Religious instruction: the chaplain attended on 72 days.

Surgeon: attended 179 times and five special visits (not in office).

Visiting justices: had 12 meetings.

Sickness: no case of sickness of any importance, except one death by bilious fever.

Salaries of officers: regularly paid.

Dietary: same as in reports of 1855, 1856, and 1857.

No complaint by prisoners or any corporal punishment.

Gaol journals properly kept.

Gaol clean and regularly whitewashed.

VIRGIN ISLANDS.

The Gaol expenditure for food, clothing, nourishment, candles, soap, wine, brandy, lime, and outdoor labour amounted to 63*l.* 18*s.* 3¼*d.*, and there was received for labour 3*l.* 12*s.* 2*d.*

One male prisoner died 1st February 1858, aged and infirm.

One male prisoner died 5th November 1858; bilious fever.

Three persons, one male and two females, executed 10th April, for murder.

1st January 1858: nine prisoners in gaol.

31st December 1858: five prisoners in gaol.

Thirty-seven males and seven females committed during the year.

I have, &c.

(Signed) CHARLES LLOYD,
Inspector of Prisons.

REPORT for CHURCH SCHOOLS.

The children at the schools in the Road Town and Kingstown have made good progress during the past year. The attendance has been regular at both places.

The course of education adopted is chiefly of a religious and catechetical nature. The children most advanced are also taught writing and arithmetic, with a few exercises in geography.

I cannot report upon the condition of the Virgin Gorda School, as that establishment has not hitherto been under my direction.

I have, &c.

(Signed) R. G. PEDDER,
Reader and Catechist.

March 19, 1859.

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No. 17.

No. 17.

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Officer administering the Government to the Right Hon. Sir EDWARD BULWER LYTTON, Bart., M.P.

(No. 22.)

Leeward Islands, Antigua,
June 8, 1859.
(Received June 30, 1859.)

SIR,

Lieutenant Governor Ord's Report.

I HAVE the honour to transmit the Blue Book of Dominica for the year 1858, accompanied by the Lieutenant Governor's Report.

2. These documents were addressed to Lieutenant Governor Robinson in April last, but having been missent from Dominica to England have only just been returned to Antigua.

3. Lieutenant Governor Ord's Report contains a generally satisfactory and promising account of the state and prospects of the Colony under his rule, in every respect except as regards making provision for the debt due to Her Majesty's Government on account of the Hurricane Loan, and even in reference to this he holds out the hope of being enabled shortly to offer other and more "satisfactory arrangements for consideration."

I have, &c.

(Signed) E. EYRE.

The Right Hon. Sir E. B. Lytton, Bart., M.P.
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure in No. 17.

(No. 22.)

Government House, Roseau,
April 11; 1859.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Excellency the Blue Book for the year 1858 in triplicate.

2. Revenue and Expenditure.

The revenue of the past year shows a deficiency of about 900*l.* as compared with that of 1857. In this latter year, however, in consequence of the heavy demands upon the Colony, all duties levied under the "General Tax Act" were increased 50 per cent. for that year only. The additional receipts on account of this increase amounted to about 1,100*l.*; there has, therefore, been an actual comparative increase of the receipts under the same heads of taxation of about 200*l.* during the last year. The income tax, moreover, was by special enactment allowed to remain dormant during 1858, the consequent loss under which head, as compared with 1857, was nearly 500*l.* A comparison, therefore, of the total receipts for the two years, under the same heads of taxation, is in favour of 1858 to the extent of 700*l.* On the imports, in which there has been no variation of the rate of duty, the increase in 1858 has been over 500*l.*, or at the rate of 9 per cent. On rum the receipts have exceeded those of 1857 by nearly 300*l.*, or at the rate of 15 per cent.; and the only fallings-off are in exports and tonnage, the former of which, as I have already explained, is due to the reduction of the duty to its normal rate, and the latter is the natural consequence of the recently amended Tonnage Act on its first coming into operation. The receipts under the Road Act show a steady and not inconsiderable increase.

In expenditure there is nothing to call for particular remark. The increase of the Police Force, and the establishment of the Poor and Lunatic Asylums have augmented the charges under the head "Salaries," but have produced some reduction under the heads "Poor" and "Constables." The operations of the Educational Board having been extended, the expenditure under this head has been somewhat increased, although it does not yet reach the amount allowed by law; and the outlay on public buildings has considerably added to the expenditure under the head "Miscellaneous."

Since 1855 there has been a steady increase in the revenue, setting aside that portion derived from additional and exceptional taxation; and the result of the past year has proved the correctness of the observation I made in forwarding the "Blue Book" for 1857, "that the prospects of revenue for the ensuing year were not unsatisfactory," and I now venture to repeat this remark in reference to the year 1859, which I also believe will witness even a more healthy condition of our finances.

3. Public Debt.

The only public debt with which the Colony is encumbered is the balance due on account of the Hurricane Loan in 1835, which, from the cessation of all payments for some years past, and with a steadily accruing interest of about 200*l.* per annum, now amounts to 8,000*l.* nearly. I am very anxious to see effected, as early as possible, some settlement of this long delayed question, and I am aware that my anxiety is shared in by the Colony. One proposal made by me during the past year, which, while requiring from the Colony the due fulfilment of its original obligations, would have placed at their disposal the means of effecting great public benefits from which they must be now debarred, has, I regret to say, been declared inadmissible by Her Majesty's Government. The subject still occupies my serious attention, and I trust to be enabled shortly to offer other and more satisfactory arrangements for consideration.

4. Public Works.

The outlay for public works has even exceeded the large expenditure for 1857. The Government House has been sufficiently advanced to admit of its occupation, but a considerable sum will yet be required to complete it. The conversion of the old Police Station to a Treasury and Custom House has cost upwards of 1,000*l.*, an expenditure quite incommensurate with the benefit obtained, but the work, like all others in this Colony,

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being performed without estimate or contract, I had no means of checking its expenditure during execution. I am glad to be able to state that the completion of Government House, and the expenditure of a few more hundred pounds on the Police Station and Court House, will place the whole of the public buildings of the Colony generally in a fair state of repair.

5. *Legislation.*

During the year 1858 ten Acts have been passed, nearly all of which are of an important character. Provision has been made for the better relief of the poor, and the custody and care of lunatics, in asylums established for the purpose in the buildings which were formerly occupied by the Garrison. These operations have already been attended with great success, in an improved condition of the poor, at a reduced expenditure on their behalf, and the opening of a Lunatic Asylum has at length relieved the Colony from a reproach to which it has been periodically and justly subjected at the hands of the Home Government.

Three measures provide for the relief of persons imprisoned for debt, to enable parties to give evidence in proceedings where they are interested, and to compel the payment of costs in complaints and informations before justices. It was expected that this last measure would tend to check frivolous and trifling complaints, by imposing a small payment upon every summons applied for; it was also anticipated that it would add something to the revenue. This last expectation has been amply fulfilled, but the amount of litigation seems as yet in nowise diminished.

The Tonnage Act has been revised, and modifications introduced which already appear to have had the effect of inducing more numerous arrivals of shipping.

The Police Act has been amended, and the force increased and re-organized.

6. *Population.*

There has been no census of the population since the year 1844, the riots which ensued on that occasion having hitherto prevented any attempt to obtain information on this most important point. I believe that the causes which led to the popular excitement 15 years since would now no longer operate in a similar manner, and it is my intention to avail myself of the earliest opportunity that may be presented of carrying out a general census.

7. *Education.*

Education appears always to have occupied a prominent position in the proceedings of the Dominican Legislature, but I regret that I cannot speak very favourably of the results of our operations under existing enactment. By the "School Act, 1857," a sum of 700*l.* was appropriated for the purpose of affording aid to schools of every denomination, in the form of contributions towards the teachers' salaries, the sole requirements of the Act being that the teachers should have been examined and found competent, that instruction in reading, writing, and arithmetic should be imparted in the English tongue, and that an inspector should be allowed from time to time to ascertain that these conditions were fulfilled. Authority was also given to the Board which regulates all proceedings under the Act to open schools for secular instruction at places where they might be required, and it was further provided that the inspector should be competent to open a classical seminary for the education of the children of the better classes, should a sufficient number be found anxious to avail themselves of it. The late Roman Catholic Bishop from the first refused his adhesion to the measure. Though quite prepared to take advantage of the liberality of the Colony, he was not prepared to allow his teachers to be examined, or his schools inspected by its officers. Up to this moment, therefore, the Board has had to content itself with extending aid to some of the Church of England and Wesleyan Schools, and opening a few others under its own immediate management. I have communicated with the authorities of the Roman Catholic Church in this Island respecting the "School Act," and have always strongly urged them to avail themselves of the liberal arrangements which it offered, and I am not without hopes that under the new administration to which it has lately succeeded my efforts may eventually be attended with success.

8. *Coins.*

Much of the coinage in circulation in this Island has been the subject of a mutilation which was in vogue in former days, when pieces were cut out of or from the silver dollar, with a view of preventing its leaving the Island. The Legislature entirely concur with me in the expediency of withdrawing this coinage from circulation, and we have ascertained that it can be effected at a loss of about 20 per cent. Assuming that the total amount in the Island does not exceed 1,300*l.*, I trust that we may yet ere long find ourselves in a position to effect this desirable improvement in our currency.

9. *Imports and Exports.*

The return under both these heads is not unsatisfactory, showing an increase over the average of the last eight years of 10 per cent. under imports and 23 per cent. under exports. This increase is principally due to the rise in the price of sugar, the crop of the past year being rather below the average of the preceding eight years.

10. *Grants of Land.*

It is supposed that about one half of the Island, which contains about 186,000 acres, still remains ungranted; but almost the whole of this is forest land, and situated in the greater number of instances on the sides of precipitous and lofty mountains or deep ravines. Applications for the purchase of portions of this land are, however, made from time to time by the labouring population, who establish their provision grounds upon sites which appear almost inaccessible. In some instances, no doubt, this cultivation is carried on, and the timber is cut, in the remoter parts of the Island, without the preliminary formality of establishing a proper title to the land; and it is much to be regretted that, as the Surveyor-General, who alone possesses the power or ability to inquire into these cases, receives no salary, and is only remunerated by fees arising from actual sales for his labour for surveying for the Crown, it is impossible to make use of his services in getting at these persons, and compelling them either to purchase the land or retire from it.

The squatting which formerly existed to a large extent on the belt of land called "the Three Chains" has, since the settlement by my predecessor of the question as to the proprietorship of this land, almost entirely ceased upon it. The larger portion of it has in most instances been sold to the contiguous proprietors of estates, reserving, however, such parts as from the number of settlers existing on them could be legitimately recognized as "Villages." In these cases they were readily allowed the preference, and purchased their holdings from the Crown. Indeed, the feeling of the people is now generally in favour of becoming bonâ fide purchasers of the land they occupy.

The land is sold at an upset price of twenty shillings and a penny per acre, but some in a favourable situation that was lately sold by auction realized at the rate of 50*l.* per acre, and the purchasers, labouring people, whilst they found no difficulty in lodging the purchase money, seemed perfectly indifferent to the price which competition had compelled them to pay.

11. *Gaols.*

Appended to the Blue Book is an important statistical table which the Provost Marshal has for some years past been in the habit of annually compiling, and which exhibits a summary of the commitments and convictions of the past year, as compared with those of the six preceding. On analysis of this document, the total number of convictions during the year 1858 proves to be 8 per cent. above the average of the last six years. In 1856, 1857, and 1858, however, by the passing of the Road Act, there was established the penalty of imprisonment in cases of omission or refusal to contribute either by personal labour or money to the repairs of the roads, and an additional class of offences has thus been created, which, though not of a serious character, contributes largely to swell the number of convictions, amounting, indeed, to nearly 50 per cent. out of the whole number during those three years. If, therefore, these be left altogether out of calculation, it will be found that the number of convictions in 1858 is, with one

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exception, less than it has been in any of the six preceding years, and is considerably below the average, viz.:—

In 1858 there were -	- 154	convictions, exclusive of those under the Road Act.
Average of 1852 to 1857 -	187	ditto ditto.
Balance in favour of 1858 -	33	or a reduction of over 17 per cent.

In the number of commitments during the year there has been a similar decrease, amounting to nearly 7 per cent., inclusive of road offences, and to 27 per cent. if they be excluded. It ought to be added, that the number of offences under this head are rapidly diminishing, the small proportion of the population which does not pay the tax now contributing their labour readily.

Whilst these comparisons exhibit a considerable diminution in the actual number of offences during the past, as compared with the previous years, I regret to be obliged to detract from the gratification which so favourable a result affords, by the admission that the same comparisons show considerable increase, viz. 14 per cent., in the number of convictions for the more serious offences within the same periods. The year 1858 was, moreover, unhappily distinguished by the execution of one criminal for murder, and the commutation of three other sentences for capital crimes.

12. *Charitable Institutions.*

I have already alluded to the establishment, during the year 1858, of the Pauper and Lunatic Asylums in the buildings formerly occupied by the Garrison. Previously to the passing of the Act by which they were established, out-door relief alone was afforded to the poor, and every person who could procure a certificate that they were in want received a weekly dole of 1*s.* 9*d.* from the general funds of the Colony. No inquiry was made into the actual circumstances of the applicants, nor whether there were any relatives upon whom their support should devolve. An arrangement so unsound in principle was almost of necessity loosely administered, and almost any person not deterred by a feeling of shame could become a recipient of relief. The natural result was a steady increase in the expenditure for the poor, which in 1857 reached upwards of 1,600*l.*, with every prospect of its continuing at the rate of about 200*l.* per annum. To remedy this enormous evil, I succeeded in passing an Act by which the barracks on Morne Bruce, a hill about 400 feet high in rear of and overlooking the town, were converted into a poorhouse capable of receiving about 150 inmates, who are clothed, fed, and properly controlled by an efficient staff of officers. All out-door relief was abolished, except in the case of persons suffering from contagious diseases, for the reception of whom no preparation has as yet been made. This establishment was opened on the 1st of April 1858, and since then has rarely had less than 100 inmates, who are among the oldest and most infirm of our population. At the same time another Act made provision for the custody and care of lunatics, both pauper and criminal, in an establishment forming part of and under the same control as the poor-house, and although this was an entirely new charge upon the revenue of the Colony, and the alterations and fittings of the buildings to adapt them to the requisite purpose, and the necessary supplies of clothing, utensils, &c., involved a very large expenditure at starting, the entire outlay on behalf of the poor and lunatics during the last nine months of the year during which the establishments were in operation, added to the expenditure during the first quarter under the old system, showed an actual balance of a few pounds in favour of the new system. It is now fairly in operation, and whilst it affords relief in its most useful form to the really necessitous, I have every confidence that it will effect a saving of 25 per cent. at least in our expenditure in their behalf.

I have, &c.
H. ST. GEORGE ORD,
Lieut.-Governor.

MAURITIUS AND SEYCHELLES.

No. 18.

Copy of DESPATCH from Governor STEVENSON to the Right Hon. Sir E. B. LYTTON, Bart., M.P.

(No. 91.) Mauritius, June 8, 1859.

(Received July 27, 1859.)

SIR,

In obedience to standing instructions, I beg leave to transmit herewith the Blue Book for 1858, together with the annual Report on the general condition and prospects of the Colony, and in an Appendix a Report from the Civil Commissioner at Seychelles, in connexion with the Blue Book Returns for that Dependency.

I have, &c.

(Signed) WILLIAM STEVENSON.

The Right Hon. Sir E. B. Lytton, Bart., M.P.
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure in No. 18.

REPORT on the ANNUAL BLUE BOOK, 1858.

Mauritius, June 1859.

Revenue and Expenditure.

1. The anticipations of a continuing increase in the revenues of Mauritius have been fully realized during the past year, and there is exhibited a satisfactory state of prosperity in the financial position of the Colony; at the same time the expenditure has likewise increased, partly from the necessity for providing additional means of performing augmented public duties, and partly from accidental causes. But under both heads of revenue and expenditure the aggregates are largely increased by the introduction of charges for the passage of immigrants, which on the other side of the account are entered as sums repaid by the parties to whom such immigrants have been specially allotted.

2. The real revenue of 1858 is 553,166*l.*, being an increase of 101,957*l.* over that of 1857, which was 451,209*l.*

3. The real expenditure of 1858 is 521,514*l.*, being an excess of 139,734*l.* over that of 1857, which was 381,780*l.*

4. The principal items of such increase of revenue are imports, 15,287*l.*; sale of spirits, 14,650*l.*, freight and passage money from our recent postal service, 14,484*l.*; passage money of immigrants refunded under Ordinances 12 of 1855, and 22 of 1857, 52,092*l.*; harbour dues, 5,610*l.*

5. The chief items of excess of expenditure are to be found under the head of establishments, 12,178*l.*; pensions, 1,798*l.*; revenue services, 2,813*l.*; education, 1,043*l.*; hospitals, 2,193*l.*; conveyance of mails, 45,873*l.*; interest, 1,265*l.*; Civil Store Department, 5,723*l.*; contribution towards military expenditure, 5,000*l.*; immigration, 47,877*l.*; immigration agents in India, 15,730*l.*; quarantine, 10,242*l.*

6. The surplus revenue over expenditure is apparently 31,652*l.*, but as a sum of 46,210*l.* has been paid from accumulated balances, the real excess of revenue is 77,862*l.*

7. £42,347 was remitted to the agent in London last year.

8. £346,906 invested in the funds, viz., to the credit of Government 237,306*l.*, and on behalf of the Commissioners of Currency 109,600*l.*, the latter sum being a portion of deposits on Government notes, of which the rest is deposited in the vaults of the Treasury.

9. The savings bank shows continuing thriftiness among some sections of the population, the aggregate amount of deposits at the year having increased from 118,130*l.* to 126,633*l.*, of which 109,706*l.* was then invested on loans. There was, however, a large withdrawal of deposits and a smaller aggregate amount of deposits during 1858 than in the previous year.

10. The Indian population form about one-third the number of depositors, and represent about the same proportion of the money deposited. All classes of depositors have increased except the Creole labourers of Mauritius, who have fallen from upwards of 200 in 1838 to 56 in 1858. Not more than one Chinese depositor has ever appeared upon the books, notwithstanding the large number in the island; they employ their money far more profitably in small retail trades.

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Imports, Exports, and Shipping.

11. Imports. The imports in 1858, as compared with those of 1857, show a large increase.

	1857.			1858.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Total Value of Imports - -	2,391,106	7	10	2,785,352	17	9
Deduct Value of Specie - -	625,906	3	4	695,908	10	5
Total Value of Goods imported -	1,765,200	4	6	2,089,444	7	4
Increase - - -				324,244	2	10

Which chiefly arises from increased Importations of the under-mentioned articles:

	Value in year 1857.	Value in year 1858.	Increase.		
	£	£	£	s.	d.
Animals, viz.: Cows and Oxen - -	42,819	54,692	11,873	0	0
„ Horses - - -	18,210	23,796	5,586	0	0
Apparel - - - - -	19,583	23,936	4,353	0	0
Beer and Ale - - - -	25,594	42,910	17,316	0	0
Cabinet and Upholstery Wares - -	7,233	17,663	10,430	0	0
Carriages - - - - -	10,345	18,388	8,043	0	0
Coals - - - - - -	15,216	22,435	7,219	0	0
Coffee - - - - - -	15,773	26,742	10,969	0	0
Copper - - - - -	63,089	70,012	6,923	0	0
Corn, Grain, Meal, and Flour, viz.: Dholl -	18,623	36,218	17,595	0	0
„ „ „ Grain -	79,656	102,226	22,570	0	0
„ „ „ Oats -	18,227	37,417	19,190	0	0
„ „ „ Rice -	314,223	372,972	58,749	0	0
„ „ „ Wheat Flour	13,316	26,204	12,888	0	0
Earthen and China Ware - - -	6,861	14,996	8,135	0	0
Haberdashery, Mercery, and Millinery -	44,284	63,006	18,722	0	0
Hardwares and Cutlery - - -	38,920	47,385	8,465	0	0
Jewellery - - - - -	12,508	17,281	4,773	0	0
Lard - - - - - -	16,871	20,952	4,081	0	0
Machinery and Millwork - - -	76,080	92,297	16,217	0	0
Manure - - - - -	24,290	109,759	85,469	0	0
Silk Manufactures, Silks, Satins, &c. - -	2,749	6,371	3,622	0	0
Tobacco, unmanufactured - - -	11,173	18,385	7,212	0	0
Wine - - - - - -	72,180	121,618	49,438	0	0
Wood, Boards and Planks - - -	12,183	26,743	14,560	0	0
			434,398	0	0

Deduct Decrease on the following Articles:—	Value in 1857.	Value in 1858.	Decrease.			
	£	£	£			
Animals, Mules - -	43,040	35,444	7,596			
Corn, Wheat - -	65,913	43,691	22,222			
Cotton Manufactures -	178,547	97,902	80,645			
				110,463	0	0
				323,935	0	0
Add differences arising on other articles - - - -				309	2	10
Net increase, as above shown - -				324,244	2	10

12. Exports. There was likewise an increase in the quantity of staple exports during the last year, although the insufficient estimate of their supposed market price was unfavourable to the return of their value, as appears by the following figures; viz.—

	1857.			1858.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Total Value of Exports -	2,303,786	9	0	2,209,076	8	9
Deduct Value of Specie -	126,962	0	0	86,593	15	0
Total Value of Goods exported	2,176,824	9	0	2,122,482	13	9

Showing a decrease in value amounting to 54,341*l.* 15*s.* 3*d.*, which, however, is not caused by a falling off in the shipments of the two principal staple articles, but is owing to some of the exporters having valued their sugars at very low rates

		Lbs. French.		*Declared Value.*
Sugar exported in 1858	-	237,108,958		£1,940,649 0 0
Ditto 1857	-	231,987,012		2,038,682 0 0
Increase in quantity	-	5,121,946	Decrease in value	- 98,032 0 0

		Gallons.		*Declared Value.*
Rum exported in 1858	-	387,838		£31,223 0 0
Ditto 1857	-	223,304		14,443 0 0
Increase in quantity	-	164,534	Increase in value	- 16,780 0 0

13. The Shipping returns of last year are likewise favourable, as the following tables will show:—

TABLE No. 1.

VESSELS ENTERED INWARDS.

	Vessels with Cargoes.		Vessels in Ballast.		Total.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
Year 1858 - -	765	- 290,294	60	- 22,832	825	- 313,126
„ 1857 - -	648	- 241,641	80	- 30,353		- 271,994
	Increase 117	- 48,653	Decrease 20	- 7,521	Increase 97	- 41,132

The following STATEMENT shows the principal COUNTRIES from which an INCREASED or DECREASED AMOUNT OF TONNAGE arrived in 1858, as compared with the TONNAGE of Vessels entered Inwards in 1857:

Countries whence arrived.	Vessels with Cargoes.				Vessels in Ballast.				Total.			
	1857.	1858.	Increase.	Decrease.	1857.	1858.	Increase.	Decrease.	1857.	1858.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
The United Kingdom -	39,841	35,655	—	4,186	476	65	—	411	40,317	35,720	—	4,597
Australasia - - -	14,240	16,314	2,074	—	2,077	2,905	828	—	16,317	19,219	2,902	—
Cape of Good Hope -	16,641	17,757	1,116	—	3,585	1,527	—	2,058	20,226	19,284	—	942
British Continental India	90,483	116,319	25,836	—	6,031	4,615	—	1,416	96,514	120,934	24,420	—
Other British Possessions	5,733	14,935	9,202	—	2,261	2,119	—	142	7,994	17,054	9,060	—
France - - -	28,200	30,863	2,663	—	1,918	972	—	946	30,118	31,835	1,717	—
Madagascar - -	15,467	15,120	—	347	—	—	—	—	15,467	15,120	—	347
Reunion Island - -	7,316	11,732	4,416	—	5,256	8,501	3,245	—	12,572	20,233	7,661	—
Other Foreign Countries	23,720	31,599	7,879	—	8,749	2,128	—	6,621	32,469	33,727	1,258	—
Total - -	241,641	290,294	53,186	4,533	30,353	22,832	4,073	11,594	271,994	313,126	47,018	5,886
	Deduct		- 4,533	- -	- -	Deduct		- 4,073	Deduct		- 586	- -
	Net Increase		48,653	- -	- -	Net Decrease		7,521	Net Increase		41,132	—

TABLE No. 2.

VESSELS CLEARED OUTWARDS.

	VESSELS WITH CARGOES.		VESSELS IN BALLAST.		TOTAL.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
Year 1858 - -	646	241,139	160	72,801	806	313,940
„ 1857 - -	557	199,005	148	62,351	705	261,356
Increase - - -	89	42,134	12	10,450	101	52,584

The following STATEMENT shows the principal COUNTRIES for which an INCREASED or DECREASED AMOUNT OF TONNAGE was cleared in 1858, as compared with the TONNAGE of Vessels cleared Outwards in 1857.

COUNTRIES to which departed.	Vessels with Cargoes.				Vessels in Ballast.				Total.			
	1857.	1858.	Increase.	Decrease.	1857.	1858.	Increase.	Decrease.	1857.	1858.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
The United Kingdom -	61,304	60,571	—	733	—	—	—	—	61,304	60,571	—	733
Australasia - -	18,255	22,669	4,414	—	—	—	—	—	18,255	22,669	4,414	—
Cape of Good Hope -	6,450	12,103	5,653	—	746	2,239	1,493	—	7,196	14,342	7,146	—
British Continental India	30,988	57,524	26,536	—	39,012	44,172	5,160	—	70,000	101,696	31,696	—
Other British Possessions	12,982	12,098	—	884	7,903	5,804	—	2,099	20,885	17,902	—	2,983
France - -	18,302	14,458	—	3,844	—	—	—	—	18,302	14,458	—	3,844
Madagascar - -	13,645	9,496	—	4,149	3,017	5,330	2,313	—	16,662	14,826	—	1,836
Reunion Island - -	22,193	27,342	5,149	—	5,890	3,039	—	2,851	28,083	30,381	2,298	—
Other Foreign Countries	14,886	24,878	9,992	—	5,783	12,217	6,434	—	20,669	37,095	16,426	—
Total - -	199,005	241,139	51,744	9,610	62,351	72,801	15,400	4,950	261,356	313,940	61,980	9,396
Deduct - - -	- -	- -	9,610	- -	- -	- -	4,950	- -	- -	- -	9,396	—
Net Increase -	- -	-	42,134	- -	- -	- -	10,450	- -	- -	- -	52,584	—

TABLE No. 3.

VESSELS ENTERED INWARDS.

Nationality of Vessels.	1857.		1858.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
British - - - -	468	182,278	530	196,767
American - - - -	9	4,960	19	12,386
Arab - - - - -	2	520	3	1,032
Danish - - - -	2	954	2	494
Dutch - - - -	2	1,473	3	1,820
French - - - -	231	77,644	248	93,275
German - - - -	—	—	1	423
Hanoverian - - - -	—	—	1	310
Hanseatic Towns - - - -	3	852	8	2,911
Lombock - -	2	211	1	139
Norwegian - - - -	1	327	1	358
Sardinian - - - -	1	341	3	1,025
Swedish - - - -	7	2,434	5	2,186
Total - - -	728	271,994	825	313,126

TABLE No. 4.

VESSELS CLEARED OUTWARDS.

Nationality of Vessels.	1857.		1858.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
British	452	175,158	528	202,924
American	8	4,502	17	11,763
Arab	1	260	4	1,292
Belgian	1	531	—	—
Danish	2	954	1	247
Dutch	2	1,473	3	1,777
French	227	74,596	235	89,397
Hanoverian	—	—	1	309
Hanseatic Towns	3	786	9	3,267
Lombock	1	131	—	—
Norwegian	1	328	—	—
Sardinian	1	340	2	685
Swedish	6	2,297	6	2,279
Total	705	261,356	806	313,940

Population.

14. The aggregate population of the Island, at the end of the year 1858, was calculated at 260,797; showing an increase of 21,863 since the end of the year 1857.

15. This increase is almost entirely due to immigration; amongst the population other than Indian, the births exceeded the deaths by only 393,—the numbers being respectively 3,989 births, and 3,596 deaths; while, amongst the Indians, the number of deaths exceeded the number of births by 311. On the other hand, however, the number of Indians introduced into the Colony exceeded that of the departures for India by 21,781; so that there was a net increase of 21,470 in the number of our immigrant population.

16. Whereas, then, in 1857, the proportion which the Indian immigrants bore to the whole population was stated to be 59·7 per cent., it may now be estimated at 62·8 per cent.; the Indians numbering 164,004, and the rest of the population about 96,793.

17. The immigration of the year 1858 has, indeed, been on a scale of unprecedented magnitude; yet the average rate of wages still remains very high, being 16*s*. The unabated demand for labour thus manifested may be accounted for by the fact that, while the high prices which have been paid for sugar during the last three years have afforded a strong inducement to increase the extent of land under cultivation, the number of immigrants introduced each year has probably not more than sufficed to compensate for the loss of the 10,000 or 12,000 men who annually leave the plantations for the purpose of returning to India, or of carrying on an independent means of subsistence in the Colony; so that the number of immigrants available to the planters has been very little, if at all, augmented in years previous to 1858.

18. It is gratifying to observe, that the difficulty of obtaining female immigrants, which has always presented an obstacle to that approximate equalization of the sexes, which is on many accounts much to be desired, has been overcome to a greater extent than was anticipated. The proportion of females to be introduced in 1858 was fixed by Mr. Labouchere's Despatch, No. 210., of 21st October 1856, at 40 per cent. of the male intending immigrants; the number actually introduced has reached 43 per cent. Whereas, of those who have returned to India during the year, the females are, to the males, in the proportion of only 17 per cent.

19. I regret to remark, however, that the number of regular marriages amongst this section of the population has been even smaller in 1858 than it was in the previous year, being 97 only against 110 in 1857.

20. The mortality during the year 1858 has been somewhat larger, in proportion to the population, than it was in the previous year. In 1857, amongst a population of 239,154, there were 6,076 deaths; in 1858, there were 7,170 deaths in a population of 260,797; the mortality in the former year being at the rate of about 2·5 per cent.; in the latter, at about 2·7 per cent. In 1856 the deaths were in the proportion of about 5 per cent. on the number of the population; in 1855, 3·5; and in 1854, about 7 per cent.; but in each of these years there was a visitation of epidemic disease.

21. Undoubtedly, such visitations might, humanly speaking, be rendered less terrible, and the rate of mortality in years that are free from them very much reduced, if the influence of a climate, naturally the most conducive to health and longevity, were not counteracted by the uncleanly habits of a large portion of the population, and by the over-crowded and ill-ventilated state of the dwelling-houses even of the better class of citizens in Port Louis. The latter evil has probably been aggravated within the last year in consequence of a very large increase in the price of rent; and the municipal body have certainly not taken sufficient measures for ensuring that increased attention to drainage and other sanitary measures, which might in some measure have warded off the evil effects of over-crowding and improper ventilation.

22. No pains, however, have been spared to awaken the public to the danger which attends that utter heedlessness of all sanitary precautions by which they have hitherto been characterized, and there are not wanting signs of a movement in favour of sanitary reform. I have, within the last three months,

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been favoured with a very able report from the stipendiary magistrate of Flacq on the sanitary state of his district, and I have caused copies of it to be sent to all the other stipendiary magistrates, in the hopes of stimulating them to similar exertions.

23. It is, however, in Port Louis that neglect of sanitary precautions has been most flagrantly exhibited, and the mortality there is nearly double the proportion of the country districts; the deaths in town having been rather more than 4·7 per cent. of the population during the year 1858, and in the country but little over 2 per cent.

Agriculture and Manufactures.

24. Colonial agriculture of Mauritius depends so much upon Indian immigration that, for some time to come, it must continue to be the main source from whence labour requirements can be supplied. The stoppage of immigration, during part of the year 1857, interfered in some measure with the field works which were necessary to ensure a full crop for the following year; but the resumption of immigration, and the increase of the labouring population during the year 1858, when was it augmented by upwards of 11,000 males, materially favoured cultivation.

25. The want of labour was so generally felt, and the competition for it so keen, that the services of these new comers could only be obtained on conditions more onerous than cane cultivation could under ordinary circumstances afford. This increased expenditure to the planter did not turn to the profit of the labourer; it was all absorbed by sirdars and middlemen, who by designing means enriched themselves.

26. The reform of this system, by favourable changes that have been made in the depôt at Mauritus, and the power which has been conceded of making engagements in India, will prove an advantage to the labourer, as well as to the planter; and these great improvements, coupled with a liberal introduction of immigrants for general allotment, are expected to advance the progress of agriculture, and promote that high state of cultivation which alone is profitable, and which, until now, has been attained but partially and for broken periods, for want of adequate and continuous labour.

27. On comparing the tabular statements of crops for the last few years with the movement of our Indian population, it will appear that the increase of production has been very nearly in proportion to the increase of population; and if the progress of our future production can be foretold from the results of recent immigration, and from the arrangements that are made for ensuring future supplies of labour, there is every chance that the cultivation of the cane and the manufacture of sugar will be largely augmented, and this, without reclaiming any new land from the forests, which it is considered very important to preserve on account of their effect on the supply of water.

28. Next in importance to the supply of labour, the supply of manure is the great object of the planter. Peruvian guano still continues to be the unrivalled fertilizer of a large portion of our cane fields, in fact, of all land where there is a sufficiency of moisture, and its regular supply at a reasonable price has become one of the wants of the Colony. Unfortunately the state of this question has been unsettled for some time past, and has called for a memorial from the Chamber of Agriculture, requesting the assistance of the Imperial Government in insuring for Mauritius a regular supply of Peruvian guano at a fair and reasonable price. During the last year, the supply has been irregular, and the price enormously high. The new agency which has lately been established by the Peruvian Government for the sale of its guano has not yet had time to show whether the arrangements and terms of the contractors will give satisfaction to the planter. Large quantities of Cape and Ichaboe guano, largely adulterated, have been imported and sold at high prices, with final disappointment and loss to the agriculturist. Based upon the prices ruling in the European markets, the consumption of Peruvian guano would now reach 20,000 tons, and soon exceed that quantity; but if prices continue excessive the consumption will necessarily be restricted. The imports from all ports in 1858 has been 18,674 tons.

29. "Poudrette," locally prepared, but inefficient from bad preparation, has been used to some extent. There is no doubt but that "poudrette" or night-soil, if scientifically treated and converted into manure, would be of great service to agriculture. The proper mode of disinfecting that manure, and of retaining at the same time its agricultural value, has not yet been resorted to; but it is anxiously hoped that the sanitary condition of the town of Port Louis, as well as the agricultural prosperity of the rural districts, will be equally benefited by improvements in the manufacture of that useful fertilizer of the soil. Fish manures and artificial guanos prepared in Europe have been tried as experiments, but only upon a limited scale. The attention of the planter is awakened to the importance of manure, and the vast fields on the sea-board of the islands generally deprived of the humidity required for guano, stand in need of some other manure to uphold their old reputed fertility.

30. The cane-borer has continued its ravages in the windward districts, and has gradually appeared in other distant localities where it was not known; no effectual remedy has yet been found against this enemy. The legislature has again offered to advance a premium of 2,000*l.* for an effectual remedy for the destruction of this insect. The drier parts of the island where vegetation is occasionally arrested, are chiefly exposed to the destructive effects of its ravages.

31. The facilities for the improved manufacture of sugar have been increased during the year by the introduction of vacuum pans, turbines, and other machinery. The cane mills put up for the extraction of the juice are the largest yet introduced into the Colony, several of 20 and 30-horse power, one of 40, and another of 60-horse power. Three vacuum pans have been put up, and 27 large estates are now provided with this improved and expensive apparatus. The generality of estates are provided with turbines, or centrifugal machines, which afford a more perfect and more expeditious mode of draining sugar than that which obtained by the old process. With the vacuum pans and turbines the quality of the sugar can be brought to the very highest perfection; but this process is checked by the differential duties exacted in the English market on the superior qualities of sugar. The manufacturer has frequently great difficulty in keeping down his quality of sugar, so as not to come up to the standard of the higher duties, which would entail a loss upon him, as the market value of the sugar would not pay the difference of the duties; and as far as the English market is concerned, it is important to the planter to produce rather an inferior than a superior sugar. Fine qualities of sugar, nearly equal to

crushed refined, are manufactured for the Australian colonies, but the same sugars are shut out of the English markets on account of the extra duty, a result of the protection to the refiners which is complained of by the colonial manufacturers as inconsistent with the policy of free trade.

Immigration.

32. The immigration of 1858 has been in every respect superior to that of preceding years, which had seldom been sufficient to make up for the deficiencies caused on estates by mortality, departures for India, and abandonment of hired labour by the immigrants who had completed their industrial residence and commenced work on their own account in various branches of industry.

33. This deficiency, which may be estimated at 11,000 or 12,000 men annually, has not only been met by the introduction of men in 1858, but a surplus of 6,000 or 7,000 men has been obtained to meet the demand for labour arising from the extension of cultivation on almost all the present estates and the creation of new ones.

34. The number of immigrants of all ages and sexes introduced during 1858, was 29,946, that is, 20,932 males, and 9,014 females; the proportion of 40 per cent. of the latter, which had been fixed for the year, has been thus exceeded.

35. The larger profits made by the Indian recruiters who returned to the island at the beginning of the year, the disturbed state of some of the provinces of India, and the high prices of food in India generally during the year, gave a strong impulse to emigration, and to that of a better class of men generally, many of whom arrived with their families.

36. With so large an immigration, great embarrassments were to be apprehended with regard to quarantine; but the seasons, very fortunately, were comparatively healthy. Although several vessels were placed under preliminary examination under circumstances of suspicion, yet it was only necessary to land the immigrants of nine ships out of 87 in the lazarettos; four for cholera, four for small-pox, and one for dysentery and diarrhœa; the number of immigrants thus landed amounted to 3,121 of all ages and sexes, that is, about one-ninth of the whole number received.

37. As far as I am able to judge by the events of the first quarter of the present year, the picture I shall have occasion to draw in next year's Blue Book of the quarantine of immigrants, and their ships, will be very different from that which I now represent as the state of last year's quarantine on immigration. But although the difficulties have been hitherto unusually great, I hope that the measures taken to remove them will be attended with all the success I desire.

38. Under the succeeding head of "Legislation" I have taken the opportunity of explaining the state of one branch of the Immigration law, and its effect on the introduction of labour during and previously to 1858. My reason for placing under that head remarks which were equally applicable to this being, that an introductory outline of the past law would more clearly explain the importance and effect of the New Ordinance and regulations (No. 30 of 1858) reported under the head of "Legislation."

Legislation.

39. The legislation for the year 1858 embraces several important Ordinances, only one of which, however, has introduced any fundamental change in the law, viz., No. 30, entitled "An Ordinance to "legalize Contracts of Service made in India, and to authorize Government to allot newly-arrived "Immigrants."

40. In order to show the object of this law, the state of things which it was intended to alter must be explained.

41. Mauritius is still dependent for the supply of its labour market upon immigration from India, for although a race of Indian Creoles and creolized Indians is gradually growing up, to become in course of years a permanent labouring class, these are not yet nearly adequate to the development of the agricultural resources of the Colony and the wants of domestic service.

42. Under the law, as it existed before this Ordinance was passed, no contract of service in India was binding in the Colony, although every preliminary arrangement (falling short of a contract legally binding in Mauritius) was expressly permitted to be made; and therefore, whatever arrangements an employer made for recruiting labourers, in the hope that they would engage with him on arriving in Mauritius, were almost sure to be defeated, in consequence of his having to compete at a great disadvantage with other employers, who, having been at no previous expense on account of the immigrants, could afford considerable outlay in the Colony to secure their services.

43. If this outlay had been by way of higher wages to the immigrants, the Colonial Legislature would have allowed them to enjoy the natural advantages of a scanty market till the price of labour had reached its proper level by the supply being equal to the demand.

44. But such was not the case.

45. The competition had created a class of middlemen between employers and employed, who, although having no connexion with the immigrants, received large sums (often as much as 8*l.* sterling) per head for the men whom they induced to engage with their principals.

46. The consequence was that they resorted to every device of falsehood and trickery to attain their end, and by these means they often induced the immigrant to disappoint the planter who had been at the cost of recruiting him, and to engage with another and a worse master.

47. So completely had these middlemen monopolized the advantages of the scanty labour market, that while the system cost annually large sums to the employers, the rate of wages remained quite stationary.

48. The system, too, had a bad moral effect, for the first lesson that the new immigrant learnt on landing was that he could break with impunity the promises he had made in India; and from mere caprice, or tempted by a childish present of a few cakes and a gaudy dress, he could unhesitatingly abandon the employer who recruited him, and suffer himself to be enticed to the services of another master.

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49. To the planters the system caused all the inconvenience and evils of uncertainty as to the supply of labour; it checked every prudent enterprize, and created frequent disappointment and loss to those who were bold enough to enter on extensive undertakings in the hope of having labourers to carry them out.

50. The former law, with the view of protecting the new immigrant against engaging himself rashly on disadvantageous terms, required him to remain forty-eight hours in the "depôt" before contracting with any employer. Under no ordinary circumstances could so short a time enable the newly-arrived stranger to judge for himself; under the actual state of things it exposed him to the unscrupulous devices of these middlemen, while the keen competition among rival planters and (so-called) "labour brokers" made the immigration depôt a scene of constant deception, disorder, and disturbance.

51. The Legislature, in order to remedy these great and growing evils, passed the Ordinance above mentioned, which consists of two branches.

52. The first branch (Art. I. to XIII.) provides that contracts of service for periods not exceeding three years may be entered into in India, provided that they are made in terms of the Ordinance and relative regulations.

53. The party engaging such an immigrant must pay to the Government the whole expense of his introduction, including the proportionate expense of introducing females.

54. As, however, the "industrial residence," which had been fixed at five years, as being adequate to remunerate the Government for the cost of introduction, was preserved in regard to the immigrants introduced at the expense of private individuals, whereas engagements for a longer period than three years were still unlawful, provision was necessary for remunerating the introducer for a proportionate part of the cost of introduction, in the event of the immigrant not renewing his engagement and completing five years of service with him.

55. It is accordingly provided that any engagement with another employer during any part of the industrial residence shall be subject to a stamp duty of 1*l.* 12*s.* per annum, and any immigrant may redeem the unexpired period of his industrial residence at the same rate, which is calculated at the fifth part of the ordinary cost of introduction. In either case the amount is payable to the original introducer.

56. The contracts made in India are under the stipendiary magistrate's control, like those made in the Mauritius. He may cancel them, upon any lawful ground; and when he does so on account of the employer's fault, the right of the latter to stamp duty, or redemption money, is forfeited.

57. Lest immigrants should be burdened with contracts made in India, but which the intended employers neglect to carry out, it is provided that any immigrant who should not be claimed by his contemplated employer within seven days after arrival at the Immigration "Depôt," may elect either to enforce the contract specifically by proceedings before the proper magistrate, or to be free from its obligations, reserving his claim for damages in consequence of its non-fulfilment.

58. If he elects the latter alternative, he enters into the general body of immigrants to be engaged on stamp. As, however, the stamp duty for the five years amounts to little more than half the cost of introduction, the Government can claim the other half from the party at whose solicitation the immigrant was introduced, but who failed to take the immigrant into his service, and pay to Government the full cost of introduction.

59. The party with whom the immigrant engaged in India may, however, with the immigrant's consent, transfer the contract to a new employer. But such transfers are subject to the approval of the Government, to be given by the stipendiary magistrate or protector of immigrants, after careful inquiry into circumstances.

60. The second branch of the Ordinance (Arts. XIII. and XIV.) authorizes the Governor, by the proper officers, to allot immigrants (if not engaged in India) to employers who will give them fair wages and allowances; every such immigrant being engaged upon stamp.

61. This system is founded upon the unquestionable fact that the immigrant, within 48 hours after his landing, cannot make a reasonable choice of an employer. The Government, by undertaking the selection for him, both checks improper devices for securing his services, and gives employers who will not use such devices a fair share of labourers.

62. The Ordinance, No. 12 of 1855, for enabling employers, at their own expense, to introduce immigrants, in the expectation of making legal engagements with them on their arrival, being no longer necessary, has been repealed.

63. Under authority given to him by the Ordinance, the Governor, in Executive Council, has framed regulations for carrying out its purposes, which have been legalized by publication in the Government Gazette, No. 54 of 1858.

64. Upon engagements in India, these regulations chiefly relate to matters of form.

65. Upon engagements under the allotment system, they provide that every immigrant recruited (but without engagement) in India, shall, if he consents, be allotted to the intended employer; and this is also to be done as to immigrants who declare their preference for any employer.

66. The consent and preference must be declared to the protector, either on board the immigrant ship, or as soon as possible after landing.

67. Effect will thus be given to every selection arising from a preference deliberately formed; while the ignorant and weak-minded stranger will be protected against a hasty or capricious choice, induced by improper devices.

68. Labourers not declaring any preference will be allotted to the employers in the different districts in alphabetical rotation, and at fair wages and allowances which have been satisfactorily adjusted for ordinary service.

69. Upon the protector's certificate of allotment, the formal engagement is extended by the magistrate without further investigation.

70. Ordinance No. 7, of 1858.—Previous to this Ordinance, any employer who had entered into contract in the Colony with a new immigrant, under the ordinary Government scheme, could not, before its expiry, make a new engagement with him without paying stamp duty for whatever part of the first engagement was included in the second one. The consequence was, that an employer often

lost a favourable opportunity for renewal occurring before the expiry of the engagement; for, when the engagement was close upon its termination, the crimps (calling themselves "labour-brokers") often interposed to the injury of *bonâ fide* employers, without any benefit whatever to the employed.

71. The remedy for this evil was a simple act of justice on the part of the Government, in providing (Sect. 1.) that whenever a new immigrant engaged with an employer, for a time which comprehended an unexpired portion of an existing contract, no stamp duty should be paid for such portion.

72. A corresponding provision (Sect. 2.) was made where a fresh engagement with a new proprietor of the estate on which the immigrant was employed, included an unexpired portion of service under a contract subsisting at the time.

73. Several changes have been introduced into the Revenue Ordinances for 1858.

74. The annual Direct Tax Ordinance (No. 21, of 1858) has undergone careful revision, chiefly with a view to increased efficiency in the means of enforcing payments; the principal changes are as follows:—

75. Article 23 has constituted what is called a "privilege" over all the immoveable estates of persons in arrear for five years of taxes, by which means the Colonial Treasury, promptly and without expense, may secure payment wherever the debtor has real estate; whereas, by the former law that could not be done effectually without a previous judgment of court.

76. In like manner, whenever it is known that any one in arrear has debts due to him in the Colony, the Government may lodge an "opposition" in the hands of the debtor. Formerly every such opposition was to be preceded by judgment, and loss to the Treasury arose in consequence.

77. A penalty of imprisonment and surcharge of double tax is also imposed on any person in arrear of taxes who shall dispose of his property collusively, in order to defeat the process for recovering payment. It is hoped that by this means a stop will be put to the collusive transfers of property among relations, with which the Revenue officers are constantly met when they attempt to make good the Government claim by seizure.

78. By Ordinance No. 2, of 1858, the duties are remitted upon sugar supplied from the Colony to the Royal Navy, and a drawback is allowed upon certain duties on sugar shipped by the "Megeara" for the use of the Cape squadron.

79. Ordinance No. 36, of 1858, was passed in order to abolish the system of "canteen contracts," under which the Government leased annually to the highest offerer the exclusive right of selling spirits, wine, and beer to be consumed in the premises.

80. It was a necessary condition of such contract, that the number of hotels and taverns throughout the Colony should be limited, lest they should have competed too much with the contractors. The consequence was, that the accommodation for hotels and other places for lodging and provisions was quite inadequate to the wants of the Colony, while respectable persons wishing to enter that kind of business were debarred by the limitation. Owing also to the absence of competition, the few hotels which did exist were ill-furnished and ill-served; the entertainment in them was very bad, and their prices exorbitant.

81. The system, too, interfered with police arrangements, for the practice had arisen of allowing the contract drinking-shops to be kept open all night during the Indian festivals, the time, more than all others, during which they ought to have been closed; and the contractors maintained that they could not carry out their engagements if the practice were discontinued.

82. It gave rise moreover to constant petty contraventions, where shopkeepers, licensed to sell only by the bottle, illegally sold by the glass, and these contraventions were difficult of detection, on account of frequent bribery of the detective officers.

83. The system had therefore all the evils of a monopoly, and others besides, while it did not attain its object by materially increasing the Revenue.

84. It was accordingly abolished by the Ordinance above mentioned, and retail licences for the sale of spirits are now granted for consumption on and off the premises indiscriminately.

85. Provision is at the same time made for preventing persons so licensed from selling liquors on Sunday, Christmas-day, or Good Friday, during any part of the day, or on week days between nine o'clock in the evening and five o'clock in the morning. The shops now licensed are thus placed on the same footing as the former contract canteens.

86. It was expected that the abolition of the monopoly would not occasion much, if any, loss to the Revenue, as the result would be a more general sale of spirits under the sanction of every common licence. To guard against that risk, however, the duties on licences for hotels and billiard rooms (Sections 5, 6,) have been slightly increased.

87. A clause has been introduced (Section 7) for extending to inspectors and serjeants of police the power (formerly exercised only by inspectors of distilleries) to sue for penalties under the Ordinance 27, of 1853, which it is hoped will tend still further to check contravention.

88. Ordinance No. 14, of 1858, was rendered necessary by the frequent exportation of arms and munitions of war, especially to Madagascar and the coast of Africa, by which the slave trade was promoted, and bad feeling was created against the Colony.

89. It renders the Governor's authority necessary to every such exportation, and authorizes him by proclamation to prohibit exportation, not only of these articles, but also of all naval or military stores.

90. Arms and ammunition for the use of the vessel may, however, be shipped, under security that they will not be disposed of improperly.

91. Ordinance No. 10, of 1858. Under authority of this Ordinance the provisions of the Merchant Shipping Act of 1854, so far as regards engagements and discharge of seamen, will be carried out in the Colony; it empowers the Governor to appoint a shipping-master and assistant shipping-master, and prescribes their scale of fees.

92. Ordinance No. 24, of 1858, provides for compulsory pre-payment of letters between Great Britain and the Colony, in compliance with the decision of the Post Office authorities in England.

93. Ordinance No. 5, of 1858. Under the civil code the Sovereign has power to dispense with the prohibition against marriage of males under the age of 18, and females under the age of 15, and with the second publication of banns.

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94. Dispensations of age are often required on account of the early age at which puberty is attained in the tropics, especially among Indians, while it is frequently proper to dispense with proclamation of banns to enable seafaring persons and strangers of short residence to marry, and in order to facilitate the legitimation of children, by enabling the parents to marry on death-beds.

95. The dispensing power has hitherto been exercised by the Governor alone; in consequence of which its advantages seldom reached the distant dependencies.

96. This Ordinance enables the Civil Commissioner at Seychelles (being the only officer to whom the power could be confided) to grant such dispensations in Seychelles, subject to the Governor's directions.

97. Ordinance No. 31, of 1858, "To amend the law as to the order and discipline of Prisons in "Mauritius."

Since the Ordinance No. 27, of 1851, for the same purpose was enacted, considerable changes in the prison system have been necessary. The district courts instituted in 1852, with jurisdiction to inflict one year's imprisonment, have increased the importance of the prisons in the rural districts; yet these continued to be administered under the law of 1851, which, however applicable to the district prisons at its date, contains very inadequate provisions for those now existing.

98. For example, the constitution of the committees was not applicable to the present magistracy. The Ordinance did not authorize the district Prison Boards to punish breaches of prison discipline. The president (and this is the case both in the central and the district prisons) could not act without the committee, however urgent might be the circumstances; a defect which caused much inconvenience, since a quorum could frequently not be assembled.

99. The classification of prisoners and arrangement of wards, cells, &c., under the Ordinance of 1851, were also quite inappropriate to the district prisons, and could not have been carried out on account of the arrangement of buildings and prison officers.

100. Even for the central prison the classification was erroneous, as it distinguished between prisoners condemned by district courts for minor offences and prisoners condemned for misdemeanors, a distinction erroneous in principle, and which could not be carried out in practice. Further, it did not leave any discretionary power to the Executive or to the Prison Committee to vary the classification as circumstances might require.

101. Another defect was the want of a system of prison overseers. Hitherto, parties of prisoners engaged upon the roads and other public works had been supervised by police constables, who were not responsible to the Prison Committees. They were appointed by the superintendent of police, without reference to their qualifications as prison guards, and they were frequently changed, so that they had seldom any knowledge of the prison rules, or any sufficient acquaintance with the prisoners.

102. The consequence was, that prison discipline was in no way enforced upon out-door parties. The constables considered themselves only responsible for the prisoners not escaping or committing breaches of the public peace. They did not keep them steadily at their tasks, or prevent them from receiving from their acquaintance spirits, opium, and gandia.

103. The prison system too contained no means for utilizing prisoners whose good conduct and intelligence made them useful assistants to the prison staff in maintaining order and discipline.

104. A law so defective produced its natural consequence of great laxity of prison discipline, and a minimum amount of prison labour from all out-door parties.

105. In fact, the prisoners so engaged, besides being better fed, clothed, and housed, were much less hardworked than the ordinary labouring population, and to many of them imprisonment was a benefit.

106. To have passed an amending Ordinance to remedy these defects would have produced considerable inconvenience and risk of error, as the law had to be applied by prison officers, most of whom are too illiterate to understand any but the simplest prison code.

107. The law of 1851 was therefore repealed, and its provisions, so far as unobjectionable, were re-enacted, along with new provisions to remedy the several defects above noticed.

108. The prisons in the rural districts have thus been placed on an efficient footing, and by conferring increased power on the Chairman of the Committees (the Procureur-General in Port Louis, and the District Magistrates in the rural districts), the administration is made more effective. The establishment of prison overseers or guards, with constabulary powers, and supported in certain permitted cases by "good-conduct prisoners," will enable the several committees to carry out something like prison discipline.

109. There are also several amendments in matters of detail, which do not call for particular notice, and power is conferred on the Central Prison Committee to frame rules for all the prisons subject to the Governor's authority. The details of prison discipline can thus be varied from time to time, as occasion may require.

110. Ordinance No. 33, of 1858, entitled "An Ordinance for the making and repairing, and for the "police and superintendence of the Public Roads, not within the boundaries of the Municipality of Port "Louis." In this Ordinance the same course was followed as for the Ordinance upon prisons. The former law (No. 14, of 1839), which was defective, was repealed, and its unobjectionable provisions were re-enacted along with the amendments required.

111. The law divides public roads into "main roads," the trunk lines of the Colony, and "branch roads," which are required for local purposes; the former being made and repaired at the expense of the Treasury, the latter at the joint cost of the Treasury and the inhabitants of the district.

112. Formerly the share of the inhabitants was raised by voluntary contribution, and pressed severely on a few for the benefit of many.

113. It may now be levied from persons liable to direct taxes in the district, under whose control the branch roads are accordingly placed, with suitable provisions for meetings and votes upon their construction, alteration, and repair.

114. The voluntary system remains, in order that a minority of ratepayers may, jointly with the Government, obtain roads for which they are willing to subscribe.

115. The same rules apply to bridges.

116. The construction and repair of roads and bridges had been much impeded by proprietors refusing to give stones from their ground for the purpose, or charging an exorbitant price for them. The Ordinance accordingly authorizes the Surveyor-General's Department, on certain previous notice, to procure stones for the purpose without the proprietor's consent, the price being afterwards fixed by arbitration. They must, however, be taken from such accessible places as the proprietor points out within 200 yards of the road, and must not, without his consent, be taken from buildings, enclosures, garden ground, or fields of young canes.

117. The provisions of the former law are re-enacted, with some unimportant amendments, for keeping public roads free from obstructions and encroachments. Plantations are prohibited within five feet of the borders of any road, and proprietors are required to lop the trees and crop the hedges passing through or bordering their land.

118. The Ordinance provides for several matters of road police, including width of the wheels of vehicles, the number of drivers for carts with several mules, &c., the extent to which burdens may project laterally beyond the wheels, the proper lighting of carriages at night, the straying of animals, letting off fireworks, throwing missiles, &c., flying kites on public roads.

119. Ordinance No. 37, of 1858, to provide for the care and treatment of lunatics, was passed in order to meet the objections which, on the recommendation of the Commissioners of Lunacy in London, had occasioned the non-confirmation by Her Majesty of the Ordinance No. 35, of 1854, enacted for the same purpose. Certain amendments have also been introduced which local experience has rendered expedient, and the Ordinance has also been adapted to the dependencies.

120. The different alterations which the present Ordinance has made in the Ordinance of 1854 are as follows:

121. The Governor is empowered to appoint one District Commissioner in any dependency of Mauritius. The difficulty, amounting sometimes to impossibility, of finding medical men duly qualified to discharge such duties in the dependencies has made it necessary to allow *one* Commissioner in Lunacy to act in those remote places in place of two, as in Mauritius. By this means the delay and expense of sending every supposed lunatic thence to Mauritius for examination will be avoided.

122. Article 2 provides that the medical member of the Central Board shall not be the superintendent or medical officer of any asylum in the Colony, the object being to secure the independence of the Central Board as a power controlling and correcting the administration of every such asylum.

123. Article 3 requires the Central Board to keep a minute book of its proceedings.

124. By Article 4, it is empowered to frame regulations, subject to the Governor's approval, for carrying out the purposes of the Ordinance.

125. Article 19 provides that in the dependencies, lunatics shall only be placed under restraint, and sent to an asylum, in cases where there is reason to apprehend violence if they were left at large.

126. By Article 23, it is provided that the question of liability of relations to support patients may be determined by the Magistrate, either immediately upon or at any future period after removal of patients. The object of this Article is to enable the Magistrate to dispose of the questions of insanity and liability at once, as, in almost all cases, can be done without any inconvenience, while, at the same time, his being authorized to adjourn the case as to liability will meet all cases where further investigation on the point may be required.

127. Article 34 provides for the interdiction or placing under judicial curatorship, of persons detained in asylum before 1854, when the former Ordinance was enacted. It thus extends the benefit of the prompt interdiction introduced by that, and continued by the present law, to all persons in the asylum.

128. The Ordinance also authorizes the Central Board to allow patients to go out of the asylum on trial; the Article being in accordance with the recommendations of the Secretary of State.

129. Articles 43 to 48 introduce rules corresponding to those now existing in England as to the registers to be kept in asylums.

130. In other respects, the text of the Ordinance No. 35, of 1854, has been preserved, with a few verbal alterations.

131. Ordinance No. 16, of 1858. The Ordinance No. 13, of 1855, as to paper currency issued by Government, was re-enacted for a year, pending the determination of the question, whether that system should not be changed for an issue of notes by chartered banks.

133. Ordinance No. 27, of 1858, has re-enacted for two years Ordinance No. 15, of 1856, authorizing the Treasury to advance 2,000*l.*, which the Chamber of Agriculture had offered as a premium for destruction of the borer.

Civil Establishment.

134. Several additions were made last year to the Civil Establishment, but they were for the most part of a minor character, some augmentations of salary were likewise allowed in individual cases; but no systematic improvement of the Civil Service was practicable, although loudly demanded, for the purpose of meeting the increased duties of nearly all the departments of the service. Preliminary inquiries were, however, made during the year, and extended to all the departments, with a view to this improvement of the Civil Service, and ample reports were transmitted on the subject; but the proposed arrangements were not sanctioned until after the termination of the year, and they still remain to be carried into execution in the manner prescribed by the Secretary of State's instructions.

135. The Stipendiary Magistracies are, however, filled up in all the districts, and their duties have been again severed from those of the District Magistrates, and both classes of Magistrates are now in full duty in their respective courts and offices.

Public Works.

136. The most important of the Public Works which have been commenced or continued during the year 1858 are—

New offices for procureur-general, and receiver of registration dues.

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New office for shipping-master; new pilots' room; and additional Lascars' quarters at the port department.

Additions and alterations to civil hospital.

New school-house and schoolmaster's quarters at Champ de Lort.

New school-house at Terre Rouge.

Wharf wall round the Ironfanfaron.

Alterations and additions to the lunatic asylum, Grand River.

Repairs and alterations to buildings opposite the asylum, intended for a police station.

New district prisons at Souillac.

Quarantine station at Cannonier Point, and quarantine station at Flat Island, commenced in July 1858. The progress of those two works has been much interrupted by quarantine.

Quarantine station at Ile du Morne, intended for temporary purposes, but may serve as a reserve station for a long time, most of the accommodation being in boarded huts.

Repairs to Government house, Reduit, rendered urgent and expensive by having been long deferred.

Alterations and additions to district prisons powder-mills.

Roads.

137. About 265 miles of main roads have been repaired or remetalled, and about 20 miles of bye-roads repaired.

The Higginson Road, connecting Moka with Flacq, has been completed.

The Trois Ilots Road, from Moka to Grand River, south-east, has been continued.

The Nouvelle Decouverte Road, connecting Pamplemouses and Moka, *via* the Victoria Road, has been commenced, and is now nearly finished.

The Cent Gaulettes Road, passing by Côte d'or, has been continued.

Bridges.

138. Pile Bridge, over the River Champagne, Grand Port, has been completed.

Ruisseau Rose Bridge, Victoria Road, is in progress, and the bridge over Plaines Wilhems River is completed.

139. All of these works have been impeded by the difficulty of procuring labour. Some of the buildings have been carried on by means of workmen hired by the department, under a new system, to which it has become necessary to resort in consequence of the difficulty of procuring contracts; but the staff and material are insufficient for carrying on works of magnitude, several works have been of necessity postponed, on account of the impossibility of obtaining proper contractors. The scarcity of skilled labour and of reliable foremen of works has never been more seriously felt than it has during the last year and than it still continues to be. And the high price of labour and materials makes it necessary to hesitate before beginning many of the larger operations which should have been the work of past years, but are now thrown upon the present.

140. There is besides great competition in the field, for there are many very spirited enterprises on foot and in course of execution, in which all available men are readily employed at exorbitant rates of wages; the expected profits from those works (which consist of docks, slips, warehouses, &c., &c.,) being so great as to justify almost any amount of outlay in order to secure their expeditious completion; and thus the Government, by the careful economy that is necessarily enjoined and exercised, is placed at a disadvantage, and, in effect, greatly excluded from the field of competition.

141. With the exception of some new roads, the road works have been carried on by men in the service of the department; but the number of men procurable at reasonable rates of wages has not much exceeded one half of the number provided for in the estimates.

142. Some important works, *i.e.*, the police station at Plaines Wilhems, and prisons at Poudre d'or, have been postponed to admit of a general re-consideration of the arrangement of districts and district establishments.

Crown Lands.

143. During the past year, 15 grants of land have been made to the occupants on payment of the estimated value, under Art. 8 of the Crown Lands Regulations. The aggregate value of the lands so granted is 1,309*l.*

144. Five leases have been granted in a similar manner, all for periods of 10 years, with the exception of that at the Ironfanfaron, to the Mauritius Dock Company, which is for 18 years. This lease has enabled the Company to undertake the construction of a very large dry dock, which will be of great service. The aggregate rental derived from the leases is 244*l.* 12*s.* 9*d.* per annum.

145. Nine lots of land have been sold by public auction, and have realized 1,682*l.*

Education.

146. Of the progress of education at the Royal College during the past year I have nothing particular to report. The late rector was absent during the entire year, and his duties were performed by the senior professor (as was the case in 1857); and all the improvements which had been recommended by the Committee of Education remained in suspense until the arrival of the rector's successor.

147. That functionary arrived at the close of the year; and, judging frem the difficulties which appear hitherto to have beset his path, he will have much to do in reducing the College to the discipline it requires, and in carrying out all the new improvements that the Committee suggested, and which, of course, are now left to his own judgment and experience.

148. I hope, for the sake of the Colony, that he will be as successful as the public have been led to hope he would be, from the care taken in his selection. The result still remains to be proved.

149. The number of pupils on the books of the Royal College during the last year was 243. The boys are of all ages, between that at which they would ordinarily begin their education at an elementary school in England, and that at which they would leave a public school for the University.

150. At the close of 1857, there were, in Mauritius, 27 elementary schools under Government inspection; 20 of which were Government schools, and seven assisted by grants in aid, under Ordinance 6, of 1856. At the close of 1858, the number of schools had risen to 44, of which 23 were Government schools, and 21 schools assisted by grants in aid.

151. The number on the rolls at the schools under Government inspection, at the close of 1857, was 2,205,—1,907 belonging to the Government schools, and 298 to those aided by grants. By the close of 1858, these numbers had risen to 3,247,—2,368, and 879 respectively.

152. Of children on the roll at any time during the course of the year, but removed before the close, it has been roughly estimated there were 908 in 1857, and 1,107 in 1858. This gives the total number who received education in schools under Government inspection as about 3,113 in 1857, and 4,354 in 1858.

153. In the absence of data on which to form any precise estimate of the number receiving education in schools other than elementary schools under Government inspection, or by private tuition, it may be stated generally, as the result of inquiries and observations that have come under notice, that the numbers educated from such sources has likewise increased.

Government Schools.

154. The 23 Government schools are distributed as follows:—Nine in Port Louis, five in Pamplemousses, two in Rivière du Rempart, one in Flacq, two in Grand Port, one in Savanne, one in Plaines Wilhems, and two in Moka.

155. In Black River, where there is no Government school, and in Plaines Wilhems, where there is but one, the number of other elementary schools is not inconsiderable, most of which are assisted by grants in aid.

156. In general, there has been progress made in the different subjects taught in the schools during the year; but the ordinary state of efficiency is low. While in the more advanced classes there are very few of the pupils who can read and translate French and English even tolerably, nearly all are deficient in writing in either language from dictation; and very few indeed can make any attempt at conversing in English. The number who speak or understand French, as distinguished from Creole, is inconsiderable. The Professor of Practical Geometry, a native of France, who teaches the advanced classes of the Port Louis Government schools, has, in some instances, to borrow from the scanty dialect of the country, in order to attempt to make his demonstrations intelligible. The Creole dialect may be described as the chief cause of the backward state of the Mauritius Government schools; the children come to school with little knowledge of the language in which they are to be taught; and the dialect they speak is so poor as to be rarely applicable as a medium of explanation. Thus the pupils may be long at schools—as long, perhaps, as the entire period usually devoted to elementary instruction, before there is any ready means of communicating to them any but the very simplest ideas.

157. The advanced classes (except in Port Louis) usually know little more than the four simple rules of arithmetic.

158. In writing the pupils are less backward than in other branches. This is to be expected, mechanical imitation only, not mental application, being required.

159. In geography and object lessons, the knowledge of the pupils is reported to be less backward than might be expected from their deficiencies in other subjects. But their knowledge is often more nominal than real; the result of certain names and terms learned merely by rote, and without any such method or connexion as might make the knowledge of any use while retained, or likely to remain long in the memory. But this, I think, is more the fault of the teacher than the taught; for as geography is now taught in schools at home, particularly physical geography, it is made so interesting as not to fail in commanding the attention of the most unintellectual child, when the lessons are given by a competent and practical master.

160. The improved attendance at most of the country Government schools seems to be attributable to the more favourable view taken of them by the R. C. clergymen than used to be the case; the moral influence which their support, or absence of opposition, would confer, not being without its effect among a population, most of whom (not counting the Indians) profess their faith. Of the pupils in the Government schools, about 30 per cent. are said to be Roman Catholics.

Schools aided by Grants under Ordinance No. 6, of 1856.

161. Of the seven schools aided by grants under Ordinance 6, of 1856, in 1857, all were under the same manager, the Rev. M. De Joux. Of the 21 schools assisted in 1858 there are eight managers; four being clergymen of the Church of England, one a Protestant layman, two Roman Catholic clergymen, and one Roman Catholic layman. It is satisfactory to see that the benefits of grants in aid are beginning to become apparent to the public generally. There is every prospect that by the conclusion of the present year a wider extension may be noticed. In the rural districts I have far more expectation of success from these assisted schools than from those which are exclusively under Government management.

162. Most of the assisted schools have been but lately established, and all have come under Government inspection but recently. While the progress of education in them cannot accordingly be well judged of so far, it may be observed generally that the efficiency of most of the schools is not greater than might be expected when we take into account their recent origin and the small amount of funds usually available for their support.

163. It may be observed of popular education in Mauritius, that were the Creole population only to be taken into account, the prospects might fairly be deemed encouraging. There is every disposition to increase the number of schools, and the people in general are not slow to take advantage of it. With the Indians it is otherwise; the means of education placed within their reach being small, and their disposition to avail themselves of it still less. They attend so irregularly, and the teachers are generally of such an inferior description, that it is doubtful if the Indian children whose names are on the school roll derive much benefit from their schooling. But for the very great majority there is not even the pretence of schooling. It remains to see what can be done for the instruction of the Indians under the Ordinance for compulsory education, when that can be brought into practical operation.

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However doubtful the policy of such a measure is generally considered, it is questionable if anything short of a law analogous to that for enforcing the education of factory children in England, applied here to the parents and employers of Indians, would secure the proposed end of extending the benefits of education to the Indian population of Mauritius.*

164. I may mention with much commendation the efforts that are made by the Rev. Mr. Ansorgé and the Rev. Mr. Hobbs, in the field of Indian education. But great as those efforts have been, the results have not yet been as important as ought to have been expected.

165. Some attempts have been made to introduce industrial schools, but hitherto they have been limited; and the success has not been equal to my expectations. I wish, however, to make the experiment on a large scale, and upon a solid and at the same time popular basis.

Ecclesiastical.

166. I have no occasion to make any remarks on changes or other occurrences under this head during the past year. Both churches have received slight augmentations; but the field of missionary labour, especially among the Indians, requires a large supply. With nearly 150,000 strange and unchristianized people added to the legitimate population of a Christian country, the responsibility of omission is heavy on those whose duty it is to supply these useful emissaries of the Church, for the purpose of diffusing the light of the Gospel among these untaught people.

Gaols, Prisoners, and Crime.—Port Louis Prison.

167. The total number of prisoners in Port Louis prison, in 1858, was 5,940.

168. The daily average was 426.

169. The proportion between these two numbers is very nearly the same in 1857 as in 1858. The difference, although slight, would indicate that the committals for 1858 have been for more serious offences than in the previous year, there having been a diminution in the committals for desertion, combined with an increase in those for theft.

170. On comparing the total committals in 1857, - -	6,763
with those in 1858 - - - - - -	5,940
there appears a decrease during the latter year of - -	823

171. The convictions for vagrancy and desertion in these two years were as follows:—

In 1857 - - - - - -	4,546
In 1858 - - - - -	2,687
Showing a decrease in 1858 of - - -	1,859

172. This great difference has arisen from the measures mentioned in last year's Report for preventing the constant interference of the police with the Indian labourers. Formerly it was the practice of the police to require every Indian found on a public road to show his "ticket," or a pass from his master, a practice causing much inconvenience to the masters themselves, and unnecessary interference with the freedom of the labouring population, accompanied by extortion and bribery on the part of the police; while it engrossed the attention of many of the police force, who would have been much better employed otherwise.

173. In the end of the year 1857, directions were issued to the police to discontinue this practice, and not to interfere with the Indian labourers, except upon complaint from their masters, or when there was reason to believe they were new immigrants defrauding the Government by not being engaged upon stamp.

174. The change has been in every way beneficial, while it has not produced the increase of desertion or marronage which some persons anticipated from it.

175. Deducting the committals on this head from the whole committals for 1857 and 1858 respectively, there appears a considerable increase in the committals for other offences in 1858; thus,—

1857.—Total committals - - - - -		6,763
Deducting committals for vagrancy and desertion -		4,546
Leaves for other offences - - - -		2,217
1858.—Total committals - - - - -		5,940
Committals for vagrancy and desertion - -		2,687
Leaving for other offences - - - -		3,253
Increase in committals for other offences in 1858 over 1857 - - - - -		1,036

176. This increase arises from there having been 908 punishments for drunkenness and disturbance in 1858 more than in 1857, and from an increase of 174 in the committals for ordinary thefts; the increase, however, being partly counterbalanced by a decrease of 124 in the committals under the Merchant Shipping Act.

177. The striking increase in the convictions for drunkenness and disturbance arises from the fact that in 1857, and for some years previously, those offences had been tried only before the municipal tribunal, and that the general police had not taken an active part in suppressing them.

178. An examination of the law (which had been called for by the frequent complaints by the public that this nuisance was not suppressed), showed that the proper tribunal for such offences was the

* The correspondence with the Secretary of State for India on this subject will be found as an Appendix to this paper.

District Court; and during last year they were accordingly tried and punished by the District Magistrate on complaint by the general police.

179. As the municipality convictions have remained the same in the two years (viz., 665 and 666 respectively), the figures given above represent the true increase in punishments for these offences; but there is no reason to suppose that the offences themselves have been more frequent; they have merely been detected and punished, which they had not been before.

180. The increase in the number of thefts detected and punished may also arise in some measure from increased vigilance in the police, rather than from an increase in crime, and it is not improbable that both the results thus noticed can, to a considerable extent, be attributed to the increased vigilance of the police, owing to the change above mentioned regarding apprehensions for vagrancy.

181. With regard to serious offences, it appears that in 1858 there were fewer prisoners tried for these than during the two previous years, the numbers being as follows:—

In 1856 - - - -	72
1857 - - - -	81
1858 - - - -	60.

182. These results merely indicate the ordinary ebb and flow noticeable in all statistics of crime.

183. The employment of prisoners of the Port Louis prison in 1858 has been according to the following daily average:—

At public works out of prison in Port Louis - - -	30
Employed by the municipality - - - - -	50
Working in prison at productive labour - - - -	181
Working in service of the prison - - - - -	41
Sick in hospital - - - - - - - -	3
Unemployed, debtors, untried prisoners, and convalescents -	33
In the country districts at public works - - - -	88
	426

184. The competition for labour in the Colony had still made it impossible to dispense with the out-door employment of prisoners, a system which, as mentioned in previous Reports, is objectionable, on account of its being a comparatively slight punishment (if any), and affording no means of preserving prison discipline.

185. The introduction of immigrant labourers for Government will, it is hoped, enable the prison authorities to dispense with this mode of employment, while the institution of regular prison guards, referred to in the Report upon Legislation, will, it is hoped, secure more efficient discipline in future years.

186. It is satisfactory, however, that the labour of so many prisoners has been utilized in several public works, which the Government could not without much difficulty and great expense have carried through by means of ordinary labourers. This is peculiarly so as to the works at the quarantine stations. The occupation of the stations for quarantine made it necessary on several occasions to interrupt the works, and when the prisoners were withdrawn on that account, their labour was utilized in their own prisons.

187. The offences against prison discipline were comparatively few in 1858, and were not for heinous offences.

188. It is still much to be regretted that the accumulation in the central prison of prisoners for all kinds of offences and of divers nationalities, renders impossible a thorough reformatory system. In 1858, as in former years, however, the prisoners working in the prison have been kept steadily at their tasks, and all the prisoners have had constant opportunities of attending religious and moral instruction within the prison.

189. Much attention has also been paid to training them to habits of cleanliness and decency, and, in several instances, sentences have been curtailed where prisoners have been reported to have behaved well, and shown decided improvement under the prison discipline; while in others, prisoners have been placed under special observation for various periods, with the view of shortening their imprisonments for good behaviour and manifest moral improvement.

190. These measures have been attended with good results.

191. There is a marked improvement in the female ward since the present matron took charge of it in the month of March last year. The women are chiefly employed in sewing, and by the kind care of the matron, combined with religious instruction from clergymen attending the prison, several Creole and Indian prisoners are now modest, docile, and industrious, who, on their entry, exhibited the opposite qualities.

192. Beyond this, I regret, it is not in my power to report any advance in the education of prisoners. The difficulty in the way of teaching men of many different faiths and languages, with all their peculiarities of caste and nationality, and collected together almost without classification, have not yet and probably never will be overcome.

193. Besides, the Prison Committee have as yet been unable to find a single qualified teacher to educate the Indian prisoners, although they have done all in their power to find one in the Colony.

194. The chairman of the Committee has been authorized to take measures for procuring teachers from one of the training schools at Calcutta, and I have some hopes that he will be successful.

195. It becomes, however, more manifest every day, that an efficient system of prison discipline and prison instruction, and those reformatory measures by which alone the confirmed criminals can be made useful members of society, and the ignorant and indolent Creoles and Asiatics can be trained to habits of steadiness and industry, are hopeless under the present system. They cannot, I believe, be attained until those convicted of graver and of minor offences are separated, and a new prison for reformation of the confirmed criminals and misdemeanants is instituted.

196. Until then, the present unsatisfactory system must continue, with only those improvements in its administration which increased experience and vigilance may suggest.

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197. There has been an increase of six in the deaths of prisoners in 1858, as compared with 1857, the numbers being respectively 7 and 13, although the total number of prisoners has diminished. From this, however, it need not be inferred that the prisons are unhealthy, or that there has been any neglect of their sanitary condition. The deaths are attributable to the low condition to which many of the Indian population are reduced when they enter the prison.

198. On the whole it appears from these details that the prison of Port Louis is improving in a progressive development of such means as it possesses for the punishment and reformation of offenders. Looking to the scantiness of these means, and the insufficiency of the institution in its buildings and organization for the higher purposes of a reformatory institution, more than this cannot be expected, so long as it continues on its present footing.

The Prisons of the Rural Districts.

199. These prisons demand no particular remark with reference to the past year, beyond this, that through the instrumentality of the local committees every attempt is made to give them as much efficiency as possible as places of imprisonment, and to make the labour of the prisoners, as far as practicable, available for the public service. In the present state of these prisons and of their accustomed inmates nothing further can be done. When the new law, noticed under the head of "Legislation," is in full operation, and the contemplated district improvements take place, and the prison buildings and arrangements are altered, and when the prison guards are appointed and brought into general service throughout the districts, many favourable changes may be effected which could not last year and cannot yet be brought into operation.

The Dependencies.

200. Accompanying the returns which I have received from the Seychelles, the acting Civil Commissioner has transmitted to me a Report of the condition and requirements of those dependencies during the past year, of which I forward a copy in an Appendix.

201. It will be observed from that Report that these dependencies suffer from the crushing and destructive indolence and want of energy exhibited by the remnant of Creole population who still inhabit those islands, and suffer the lands to become wild and profitless, rather than make any attempt to convert them to those fruitful uses for which they are well adapted, and to which they used in past years to be applied. The chief enterprize of these inhabitants consists in gathering the "cocoa nuts" which nature has provided for them, and converting them into oil. This pursuit is followed with much success in some of the islands, where a few of the more energetic of the Mauritians have established small but primitive factories, of which the profits are said to be exceedingly remunerative.

202. Some of the suggestions offered by the Civil Commissioner have already been carried out, and others are under consideration; and I hope I shall soon be able to extend to the principal islands of the Seychelles a participation in the boon which has lately been conceded to the Mauritius, of engaging their labourers in India, and having them taken direct to those islands.

203. At present those dependencies are most unfavourably circumstanced; there are many persons in Mauritius who are proprietors of land in the larger as well as smaller islands, who would gladly turn them to profitable account, if it were possible for them to obtain the labour they require. The few Creoles who from time to time proceed from Mauritius to the smaller islands for oil-making purposes confine themselves exclusively to that pursuit, and the Indian labourers, once arrived in Mauritius, are not easily persuaded to embark for a new section of the Colony, notwithstanding its situation is half-way in advance towards their own homes, and other foreign supplies of labour are too uncertain and expensive for the purpose for which it is required.

204. Now that our recent immigration laws are beginning to show their favourable operations, I hope to be able to extend their advantage to Seychelles; and I am about to propose a plan for the establishment of a subordinate "protectorate" of immigrants, under the charge and responsibility of which all immigrants to Seychelles, who may be specially engaged in India through the instrumentality of this Government, may be ensured precisely the same advantages that they derive in this Island; and as the distance from their own country is only half as great as it is to Mauritius, I have no doubt that under careful management and supervision, the Seychelles will soon become a favourite colonial resort of the Indian labourers.

205. Unless some such act of justice be speedily done, these valuable islands will become more than useless to Mauritius, for they will soon lose their little remaining means of self-support and become an expensive embarrassment to the Colony; whereas by assisting them with facilities of procuring labour, in the same manner in which Mauritius itself has been aided, there will be every ground for hope that they will be soon restored to a flourishing condition, and not only create a revenue for their present limited staff, but so improve that revenue as to justify the support of larger establishments, commensurate with their present increasing wants.

206. The recent change in the postal arrangements has been fatal to all direct communication with Seychelles. Had the project been matured, as I at first suggested, there would have been a regular communication between this Island and those outlying dependencies, as part of the suggested arrangement was that the packets should call at the principal island of Mahé, (which is in a direct line between this and Aden,) both in coming and returning. Should the population increase by the measures I propose, and these islands assume greater importance and productiveness, I have no doubt that other means will be provided of keeping up such regular communication for the future.

207. I hope that my next year's Report will be more satisfactory than the present one, on the subject of the dependencies. I have taken advantage of the use of H.M.S. "Lynx," which the Admiral on the station has placed at my disposal, to send down a Special Commission for the purpose of making some further inquiries and reports respecting the smaller of these dependencies, and of assuring them of the continuing protection of this Government; and from all I can learn from other sources the reports I am likely to receive from those Commissioners will be of a promising and hopeful character.

General Remarks. MAURITIUS.

208. In my Blue Book Report of last year I entered very fully into the state of all the departments of the service, and into the apparent condition and prosperity of the country, as I desired to furnish an accurate statement of the impressions I had formed of the Colony, of which I had not long been appointed to the Government, as well as my opinion of the improvements which the establishments and service of the public departments required, and of those which would be of probable or certain advantage to the interests of the inhabitants, and of the agriculture and commerce of the country.

209. Upon re-perusal of that Report, at the distance of twelve months from its preparation, I see no reason to alter any of the impressions or opinions, that I had formed when I wrote it; but on the contrary I feel every conviction that they were correct. My subsequent acquaintance with the several institutions and departments of the country, and my personal knowledge of the inhabitants and observation of the peculiarities of the Colony, fully assure me that I gave no exaggerated picture either of the condition, prospects, and requirements of the country, or of the defects of the institutions which I brought under notice.

210. Several of the suggestions I then made have since been the subject of representation to the Secretary of State, and I have been allowed to carry out many of my views, while others are still under inquiry and consideration.

211. But with respect to many of the more extensive changes and improvements that occurred to me to be necessary, I have made it a preliminary duty to pass them through the ordeal of strict inquiry and investigation; and I have placed many important subjects in the course of the year in the hands of Special Commissions or of Committees of the Council, with full minutes of my own views and opinions upon them.

212. On some of these references preliminary reports have lately been completed, which are now in course of further action, or will be so during the present year; but inquiries of this importance and extent are in this country very slow in their progress, as there are few, beyond the limits of official circles, who can afford much time for the duty, and the officials have so much of their own public work to perform, that these extraneous inquiries prove a great interruption to their ordinary current duties. I must, however, acknowledge the prompt assistance that they have always given when called upon to do so, and I must also express my obligation to many private gentlemen who have aided me in the prosecution of many of these investigations.

213. Besides these reports, some of which relate to the augmentation and improvement of the various departments of the Civil Sereice, and others which have already been communicated to the Government, I have received some very elaborate reports, which have been printed and circulated for general information and comment, preparatory to the adoption of any recommended measures of improvement.

214. Among those which I have received are reports upon quarantine improvements, and upon the sanitary condition of the Island generally, and of Port Louis in particular; reports of the hospitals, asylums, and other medico-charitable institutions of the town and country; reports of the whole police establishment and service, with suggestions for improvements; reports on the formation of villages throughout the Island, and of suburbs near Port Louis, for the aggregation of the large and spreading population of the Island, with recommendations for improvements in the social arrangements and institutions of the rural districts; reports on the intended railways of Mauritius, and for the extension and improvement of the harbour and the docks of Port Louis, and many others of minor importance, but of equal necessity.

215. Besides these reports there are several others in progress, the objects of which are to promote the general improvement of the Colony and the social condition of the inhabitants, most of which have sprung out of the suggestions embraced in my last year's Report. There are still many others in contemplation, but experience has taught me that in this Island measures of improvement must be taken in hand singly, or at all events gradually; otherwise, from the want of intellectual labourers who can spare time for assistance, many of them must fall still-born to the gronnd.

216. Of these which have been already in progress, I may say that they have occupied attention during a greater part of the past year; and I believe I may consider myself fortunate in having obtained so many ample reports, where there have been so many persons required to give either evidence or assistance, and so few in a situation to afford it.

217. I am able to report most favourably of the general appearance and promise of the Colony, so far as respects its general and staple resources. The spirits of the agricultural, as well as of the commercial community, have been much raised by the improvements which have taken place and been conceded in the immigration arrangements, as well as those which have been made in the postal service. The former afford them prospects of recruiting not only the labouring population upon estates, but the skilled labour of artizans in the town, and the latter open an immediate communication with all the Australian colonies, and give new impulse to commercial enterprizes with the East.

218. The more, however, the country prospers, the more work is brought into the public departments, by reason of the sole reliance that is everywhere placed on the exclusive services of the Government; but for the performance of all this additional work the human machinery we possess, as well as the skilled intelligence to conduct it, is still defective, although I hope not long destined to remain so, under the sanction that has been lately received for its augmentation and improvement.

219. I do not yet venture to say that social arrangements are in the same march of improvement, although I may add that they are certainly advancing. There are very many peculiarities in this place, which form a barrier to the rapid march of progress that would be made in other colonies similarly circumstanced, and in which the prevalence of one origin and nationality, one language, one creed, one caste, and one common incentive, would greatly assist in promoting and accelerating all public measures of improvement. Some of these difficulties are invariably presented when social progress or educational advancement is under consideration; and I fear it will be long (if ever) before the existing barriers can be effectually removed.

220. I may say, however, that there is a strong wish expressed by all classes foı improvements and social reforms; the only want of unanimity being as to the precise reforms that are needed, and the

MAURITIUS. mode of carrying them into execution. I hope, however, that by narrowly watching the success of those public improvements which are now in progress, and by clearly demonstrating the general scope and object of all others that may be suggested, and enlisting some of the more zealous and intelligent of all classes in working them into development, they will not only be amply supported, but will lead to others which may be originated by the people themselves, who should now learn to lean less upon Government, and begin to think and act more independently for themselves.

(Signed) WILLIAM STEVENSON.

Sub-Encl.

Sub-Enclosure.

SEYCHELLES.

APPENDIX.

SUB-REPORT OF ACTING CIVIL COMMISSIONER OF SEYCHELLES.

SIR, Victoria Town, Mahé, Seychelles, January 25, 1859.

1. I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that I transmit by the present opportunity to the Honourable the Colonial Secretary the "Blue Book" returns of this Dependency for last year, including a statement of exports, and their approximate value, amounting to the sum of 13,231*l.* sterling, being an increase of about 1,700*l.* on the value of the exports in 1857.

2. I regret that it was not in my power to make any report to your Excellency upon the condition and prospects of the Seychelles islands, to accompany the Blue Book returns for the year 1857, as I was not in the Dependency during any portion of that period, having only assumed the duties of my new appointment in the month of February last, on my predecessor's departure for Europe; and not to delay the completion of the "Blue Book," the returns in question were forwarded to Mauritius by the first opportunity in the month of April following.

3. The revenue for last year, which amounts to a sum of 1,826*l.* 0*s.* 9¼*d.*, exhibits, I regret to observe, a decrease of 543*l.* 10*s.* 8 *d* as compared with that of the preceding one, a circumstance which is to be attributed to the importation, duty-free, of rum from Mauritius on which the colonial duty had been levied there, which caused a proportionate decrease in the consumption of spirits manufactured in this Dependency, and to the cessation of distillation during last year by one of the two proprietors of stills in these islands, both of whom in 1857 paid the annual licence duty of 100*l.* sterling.

4. I would here beg leave to remark that the trade between Mauritius and these islands being considered a "coasting trade" no duty is levied on goods, including rum, imported from Mauritius for consumption. The amount of duty levied on those goods at Mauritius on their entry and exportation (as in the case of colonial spirits) is amalgamated with other duties, and the whole being carried to the credit of the customs of the port of Port Louis, renders it impossible to form a correct estimate of what portion of duty would, under a different arrangement, properly belong to the "Seychelles revenue," a circumstance which has claimed my attention from the fact that goods to the value of upwards of 4,000*l.* sterling have been imported from Mauritius during last year on which duties were levied and paid there. I have in consequence taken the liberty to suggest to your Excellency that means be adopted at the Mauritius Custom-house to ascertain in future, as accurately as possible, the share of import and export duty which properly speaking belongs to this Dependency; and if this is accomplished I doubt not it will appear that, despite of its depressed and impoverished state, this Dependency gives more assistance towards defraying its expenditure than is generally supposed at the present time.

5. The cause of this depressed and impoverished condition is, I respectfully submit, to be traced to the want of labourers to cultivate the soil, which was once so productive, and which has been abandoned for upwards of a quarter of a century; for an inquiry into the former and present state of the Dependency brings to light the fact that in the years 1824, 1825, and 1826, when the low price of cotton rendered its cultivation no longer remunerative, and a great impetus was given to the extension of the production of sugar by the admission into the home market of this staple commodity of Mauritius on an equal footing with the produce of the most favoured Possessions of the Crown, the Seychelles Islands were in a measure depopulated by the transfer to Mauritius plantations of the able-bodied and working portion of the then slave population, who, after the emancipation, remained there, where they had formed new habits and family connexions and ties; the majority of those left behind being the old and decrepid, whose physical powers were unequal to the laborious employments of sugar-producing properties; and even those, the rejected, when emancipation was decreed, regarding field labour as a degrading occupation through mistaken notions of the value of the boon accorded, and of the duties imposed upon them as free men, abandoned it; the cultivation of rice, cotton, coffee, tobacco, cloves and other spices, for the growth of all of which this soil and climate are so peculiarly and eminently adapted, almost entirely ceased. Rice, coffee, and tobacco are now imported from Mauritius, and great difficulty is experienced in procuring a few pounds weight of the native cotton.

6. The only apparently valuable industry now followed is the planting of cocoa-nut trees; but on most of the estates they do not look healthy nor promising, the old and young trees being surrounded and choked up by jungle and weeds, from the difficulty experienced in procuring labour to keep them clean; and I may be permitted to doubt if the other exported articles offer remuneration to producers from the exorbitant wages paid for the paucity of service given in return.

7. During the administration of Governor Higginson, a Proclamation was passed in 1851, in Executive Council, for the purpose of extending to these islands the regulations relating to the immigration into Mauritius of natives of Madagascar, which were published in the Government Gazette of the 24th of

May of that year. But this permission was not availed of, the expense being perhaps too great for one person to compass, and the inhabitants not sufficiently advanced in social progress to appreciate the advantages to be derived from an association of interests which has been productive of such surprising results as are witnessed at Mauritius, as in other communities where the principle has been adopted and is carried out.

8. It is, however, to be hoped that better times are coming for the Seychellois, as, in March last, I had the honour to forward to your Excellency a petition numerously signed, soliciting your Excellency to pass enactments for levying taxes to raise a fund for the introduction of free labourers, for educational purposes, and for the making of roads. My report, which accompanied it, set forth in detail the numerous difficulties the inhabitants of this isolated Dependency were struggling with, through the want of continuous and reliable labour from the emancipated population, who are slothful, idle, and wanting in energy, quite satisfied to subsist on the bare necessaries of life, which are cheap and abundant. The introduction of cheap labour is, in my humble opinion, the only means to be adopted for the regeneration of these islands, and it would, in a short space of time, have the further beneficial effect of relieving the Mauritius Government from the burden of supporting this establishment, a continued outlay for years past, which has been repeatedly complained of by the Mauritians. It was, therefore, with much pleasure that I received from your Excellency, in September last, the gratifying assurance that an Ordinance on immigration was under consideration, and also that your Excellency would have much pleasure to find it in your power to support any measures having a tendency to the promotion of our public improvement.

9. Amongst the other subjects of interest to this Dependency, to which I have had the honour of soliciting your Excellency's attention, I may enumerate the following; viz.—

1st. The extension to these islands of the laws on quarantine in force at Mauritius.

2nd. The extension of the Mauritius Ordinance for the relief of the Poor, which embodies a provision for the establishment of district hospitals. A central hospital, in conjunction with the Victoria Town Dispensary, re-opened in June last, on the arrival of Dr. Brooks, being much wanted.

3rd. The establishment of a branch savings' bank.

4th. The sale of the island called "Felicité," and of several plots of ground in the vicinity of this town.

10. It affords me much gratification to state that the contractor has almost completed the building of the Episcopal church at Victoria Town, which (D.V.) will be entirely finished in about two months from this time. We have a church of the Established religion on the island of Praslin; and another has been lately erected on the island called La Digue, through the zealous perseverance of the Reverend Dr. Fallet. There are Catholic chapels on both the islands of "Praslin" and "La Digue;" and a school for boys and girls on the latter, under the supervision and care of the Reverend Theophile, Capucin Friar, who resides in those islands alternately, and distributes his time between them. The Reverend Mathias, a Capucin Friar, has charge of Catholic chapels and flocks at "Anse aux Pins" and "Anse Royale," Mahé; and has opened a school for boys and girls at the former place, which is well attended. The spiritual wants of the Roman Catholic residents at Victoria Town are ministered to by the Very Reverend Jeremie de Paglieta, Apostolic Prefect and Capucin Friar. It must be acknowledged that the untiring zeal of those respectable men is producing a large amount of moral improvement amongst all classes. Their establishment is principally supported by the Propaganda Fidei at Rome, and no pecuniary support is granted them by Government. The walls of the new Catholic church, built with coral, have attained the height of several feet. It was found that the present building did not afford sufficient accommodation for the large section, comprising about nine-tenths of the population, by which it is attended. A public and free school for boys and girls, built in wood and covered with shingles, of the dimensions of 50 feet long by 18 feet wide, to be under the supervision of the Rev. Dr. Fallet, is now in course of erection at Victoria Town, raised with funds derived from voluntary subscription, and will, I trust, be ready to receive at an early day the pupils of the schools under the management of Mr. Constant Collie and Mrs. Knowles, who at present occupy a building hired by Government for that purpose; combined with those above mentioned, two private schools kept by Mr. James M. Collie and Mr. Louis D'Offay, complete the institutions for religious and educational instruction imparted to the population of these islands.

11. The total number of persons tried before the District Court for petty thefts, trespass, assaults, and light offences, amounted to 178, of whom 53 were acquitted. The guilty were fined or condemned to brief periods of imprisonment; and no case occurred of sufficient gravity to be sent before the Assize Court at Mauritius.

12. The very few prisoners, seldom exceeding twelve in number, and occasionally less, condemned to hard labour, have been diligently and usefully occupied in cleaning the town and suburbs, widening and repairing the roads and footpaths, building causeways, and on other public works.

13. The health of the prisoners, who are under the medical charge of Dr. J. H. Brooks, Government Medical Officer, as well as the sanitary condition of the Dependency in general, has been very satisfactory; and no mortality occurred in the prison during the year.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. TELFAIR,
Acting Civil Commissioner.

His Excellency Governor Stevenson,
&c. &c. &c.

MAURITIUS.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor STEVENSON to his Grace the Duke of Newcastle.

(No. 113.)

Mauritius, August 23, 1859.
(Received October 15, 1859.)

MY LORD DUKE,

IN continuation of my Despatch, No. 63., of the 5th May last, to Secretary Sir E. B. Lytton, in which I mentioned that I had sent Her Majesty's Ship "Lynx," Lieutenant Berkeley, R.N. commanding, with a special commission to the Seychelles and the minor dependencies for the purpose of enquiring into their present condition and the wants and comforts of the population, and in which I also mentioned that the Bishop of Mauritius had also proceeded in the "Lynx" on an episcopal visit to those dependencies.

2. I have the honour to report the return of the "Lynx" and of the commissioners, and the successful result of the mission with which the latter were entrusted.

Encl. No. 2.

3. I have received from the commissioners a special report of their visit, which has been printed and circulated for general information, and laid upon the table of the council, and of which I have the honour to transmit copies.*

4. Upon careful perusal of this report, and of all previous correspondence connected with the minor dependencies, I think the result of this visit of the commissioners is as satisfactory as could have been expected; and I hope it will be found that the report furnishes all the additional information that was required by Mr. Labouchere's Despatch of the 20th August 1857, with respect to some minor particulars which had been left in doubt by the report of the previous visit of Captain Peyton to those dependencies. In personal communication with the commissioners, I find that they fully carried out all the public and private instructions that I gave them previously to their departure.

5. In the 38th paragraph of the report, the only instance is furnished of want of good faith in a managing administrator, in not openly disclosing the punishment of sequestration of a labourer, who had been sent to confinement in the "Isle Anglaise," and which fact was afterwards accidently discovered by Lieutenant Berkeley. I have directed notice of this to be strongly communicated to Mr. Plasson, the agent in Port Louis for this particular dependency, with a direction that he should convey a suitable rebuke to his administrator, with a threat of consequences in the event of any similar concealment being made for the future.

6. There is also a representation, in the 41st and subsequent paragraphs, that, in consequence of the neglect of the agent in Port Louis of the "Six Islands" dependency, rations of inferior quality had been irregularly sent to that dependency, and that, upon one occasion, neither the administrator nor the labourers had been supplied with rations for one month and a half. I have directed that Mr. Laporte, the agent of that dependency, should furnish me with a full report upon the subject, which I have not yet received, and have conveyed to him an intimation that strong measures will be resorted to, for the purpose of preventing the future occurrence of such gross neglect.

7. Indeed I have considered it necessary, in consequence of this report, and other information which has reached me, to direct some careful enquiries to be made in connection with the tenure and occupation of the "Six Islands" dependency, the result of which will be communicated in a future Despatch.

8. The 54th paragraph makes allusion to the great disproportion of the sexes among the labourers in these several dependencies; and it appears that the managers themselves originated remarks upon that point, and that both they and the owners of the dependencies desire to amend that condition of things. I shall certainly endeavour to promote such alterations in this respect as are manifestly desirable, although, as far as the introduction of labourers is concerned by the voluntary arrangement of parties, and without the instrumentality of the Government, it is a matter that rests more immediately with the employers to promote than with the Government to dictate.

9. It may, however, happen, if I am able to carry out the suggestion in the 55th paragraph, "that written agreements should be made in Mauritius when labourers "are engaged in this island for the dependencies," that I may have an opportunity of engrafting upon any Government regulations that may be made, a stipulation for the engagement of a proportionate number of females also.

10. Upon the subject of immigation labour required for the dependencies, and particularly for the Seychelles, which subject is alluded to in the 57th paragraph of the report, I have had frequent communications with the Civil Commissioner of Seychelles,

* An extract of this Report has only been printed.

all of which have recognized the importance of an accession of labour being allowed for the use of the dependencies; but as this report is intended to be confined to those minor dependencies, which are beyond the reach of the Magisterial influence of the Seychelles, I propose to make the question of labour in the dependencies generally the subject of a separate Despatch. MAURITIUS.

11. The small populations and scattered positions of these minor dependencies, which are remote from the Seychelles group, on which the commissioner and magistrate reside, make it impossible to provide any regular magisterial control to influence the social position of the inhabitants; and few magistrates, whose duty it would be to act in these distant places, and who would be far removed from the eye of the Government, could be implicity relied on for the exercise of proper temper and moderation at all times. The best social arrangement, therefore, is that which must proceed from the mutual good will of the resident agents and the labourers under their charge, and which must rest upon the good faith of each towards the other. In addition to this, an occasional and unannounced visit from one of her Majesty's ships, with a special commission of enquiry, similar to that which I lately sent, will sufficiently assure the inhabitants of the hovering protection of the Government, and serve, at the same time, as a check to any excesses that are likely to be committed.

12. I hope that the visits of steamers of war to Mauritius will not be so rare as they have hitherto been, and that orders will be given for me to be more constantly upon this station for the future. It is a very necessary precaution; and the means which will be afforded of frequently visiting both the Seychelles and the minor dependencies, for the purposes of protection and general administration, will be very much appreciated.

13. As the Blue Books which have been furnished from Mauritius have hitherto given no information whatever respecting the distant dependencies, it may be desirable that this Report should be printed as an Appendix to that for last year, which I lately transmitted in my Despatch, No. 91, of the 18th June last; but if it be not in time for that Report, it can be introduced into the next Report, which will have reference to the present year's returns, with any further information that I may then have obtained.

14. In connexion with the visit of the Bishop of Mauritius, I have also received a report from his Lordship on the subject of the state of the church and the religious condition of the Seychelles, as well as of the minor dependencies. I have the honour to transmit copies of this Report, which has also been printed and published for general information. Encl. No. 1.

15. It will be seen from this Report, that although the state of the church and of the religious knowledge of the people is, to a certain extent, satisfactory, considering the peculiar circumstances in which those dependencies are placed, yet that there is a wide field for missionary labour and usefulness to be found there. I beg to recommend that copies of this Report be transmitted to the Church Missionary Society, and to any other association that may be in a situation to take up this Christian missionary duty that should be performed at these straggling possessions, and that they be requested to furnish one or more itinerant missionaries, who may be sent from place to place in the dependencies for the purpose of spreading the light of the Gospel among their inhabitants.

16. I have no doubt of these missionaries being well received wherever they may appear, and do not anticipate any difficulty in forwarding their labours through the instrumentality of the agents and administrators connected with the dependencies.

17. It is obvious, however, that any missionaries who are sent for this duty should be liberal and tolerant in their views, otherwise the good that they might accomplish might be, in some measure, counteracted by rash interferences or misplaced zeal; and against this they should be especially cautioned.

18. I am happy to be able to report satisfactorily of the manner in which the commission has been executed, both by Lieutenant Berkeley and by Mr. Caldwell. The former, in following the instructions I gave him, appears to have taken great pains to accomplish the object of his commission; and I have every reason to be fully satisfied and pleased with the assistance afforded by Mr. Caldwell, whose valuable services I was exceedingly glad to be able to obtain for the occasion. It will be seen that the bishop's Report speaks most favourably also of the assistance given by Mr. Caldwell in the episcopal arrangements that required his aid and practical knowledge.

19. I considered it right to ask the council for a small vote to each of the commissioners, in the Minute of which I have the honour to transmit copies, and they very unhesitatingly voted a sum of 100*l.* to each, which has accordingly been paid.

20. I trust Your Grace will be pleased to approve of this vote, as well as of the general result of the commission. And I hope that the course I propose for the future, of

MAURITIUS.

occasionally sending a similar commission, until some more permanent and satisfactory arrangement can be adopted, will also meet with approval.

21. It is my intention to report, in a separate Despatch, the result of the trial of some of the "Six Islands" labourers who have lately been convicted of having been participators in the murder of the late Mr. Hugon, to whose case allusion is made in Mr. Labouchere's Despatch, No. 14, of the 20th August last. I must, however, defer making a full report of that case until some further proceedings, which I have thought proper to direct, and which have arisen out of the evidence at the trial, have been sufficiently advanced to enable me to bring the whole under notice. I hope to be soon in a situation to make that full report.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WILLIAM STEVENSON.

His Grace the Duke of Newcastle,
&c. &c. &c.

REPORT of the LORD BISHOP of MAURITIUS on his VISITATION to the SEYCHELLES ISLANDS.

To His Excellency the Governor.

SIR, St. James's Vestry, Port Louis, 14th July 1859.

I REGRET that incessant occupation since my return has prevented me from commencing sooner to prepare a Report to your Excellency of the work done by me during my recent tour among the Seychelles Islands and those of the Chagos Archipelagos.

On our way to Mahé we endeavoured in vain to effect a landing on Agalega, though a day and a half were spent in the endeavour to do so. At Cœtivy we were more fortunate, and I landed there with the Commissioners on the 11th of May last, early in the day, and spent several hours on the island. The manager of the estate and his family expressed much pleasure in receiving the visit of an ordained minister of the gospel, the first they believed who had ever been on the island. Bibles, New Testaments, and Prayer Books were gladly received, as well as tracts and small religious books. The labourers of African descent were partly Protestant, partly Roman Catholic, and partly unbaptized. I baptized two children; but was not able to accede to the wish of an old man that I should baptize him, from the great ignorance which he manifested of the fundamental truths of the Christian religion. The services of a catechist are greatly needed here.

On the 12th we landed at Port Victoria, Mahé, and I had the pleasure of greeting the school children on the quay, led by Mr. Adrien Colais and Mrs. Knowles, the master and mistress. Very agreeable signs of progress since my visit in 1856 presented themselves on my way up to the Government House. On the right was the new church, built of coral, quite ready for public worship, as there only remained a few feet of the tower above the roof of the church to be completed. On the left were the two new schools in one building, erected during the same period, so that, instead of having a dwelling-house fitted up for service on the Sundays, and for school purposes during the week, the rent of which was paid by Government, we have now a church and school-rooms which would bear comparison with those of the generality of English villages. Much local effort had been made to secure these results. A subscription had been begun by the late Rev. Mr. Banks, which had lain at the savings banks so long without addition, that interest had ceased to be paid on it. Mr. Keate, the commissioner, had set on foot another subscription some years ago. The gathering in of these sums, together with those collected by Captain Wade, commissioner after Mr. Keate, and fresh collections made here, had enabled the Mauritius Church Association, on receiving an equal amount from Government, to authorize the commencement of a church, the plans for which were given by Mr. Langrishe Banks, son of the clergyman whose mission to the Seychelles, 18 years ago, was the origin of so much good to those neglected islands. The foundation stone was laid by Captain Wade before his departure for Europe, and when Mr. C. Telfair took his place as acting commissioner, he personally inspected the progress of the work, so as to ensure its early completion. Great credit is due to Mr. Arthur Dubois, the contractor, whose zeal in the cause enabled him to overcome not a few difficulties thrown in his way, while Mr. Ferdinand Savy, who undertook the hire of the workmen and the building operations, was spoken of in the warmest terms of praise by Mr. Telfair and Mr. Dubois. A large number of persons came to me at the Government House, to present a statement drawn up by Mr. Notary Loiseau, and signed with many names, expressing their gratitude for the erection of the church, and particularly mentioning the zeal of their clergyman, the Rev. Dr. Fallet, and of Mr. Dubois, the churchwarden, in bringing about that happy result.

The church was consecrated on Saturday the 15th of May, and on that occasion, and at the three services of the next day, large congregations were gathered—more persons being present on the Sunday evening than could be accommodated with seats.

The number of communicants at the celebration of the Lord's supper exceeded a hundred, and there were 79 candidates for confirmation on the following Friday. The baptism of six children on one day and three on another, besides individual cases during my stay, gave me the opportunity of arranging that part of the church in which the font, sent by the Rev. Mr. Pering, is placed, so as to secure convenient space for the sponsors. Marriages were celebrated while I was there, and I read the burial service at the funeral of one of the sailors of the "Lynx," who had died as we entered the roadstead, and who was buried in the large cemetery at the back of the Government House. As the

burials in this public cemetery are made promiscuously, I did not use the consecration service. There is a very necessary provision against the intense heat of the sun in a covered resting-place for the coffin, built in the time of a former chaplain, the Rev. Mr. Delafontaine, where the Psalm and the Lesson are read. It would be well if some such provision were made in the cemetery of Port Louis.

Tuesday the 17th, and the two following days, were spent in an excursion to Praslin. Accompanied by Mr. Telfair and Dr. Brooks, I started early on the Tuesday morning, and we were anchored in Curieuse Bay at about one o'clock. Our first visit was to Ile Curieuse, where the lepers are kept. I found that several of the poor patients had died since my former visit, chiefly those whose cases were of the most aggravated character. The others were very glad to see me again, and I went round their cottages to converse with them, and to give them instruction and exhortation as far as the time permitted. I was thankful to find one named *Prosper*, who is the "dresser" to the establishment, and who acts as reader of Scripture and Prayers and of the Funeral Service; he is seriously affected with leprosy himself, and at my last visit complained bitterly to me of the violent conduct of one of the Capucin Friars, Le Père Théophile, who had torn away his books from him. I reported this matter to the Civil Commissioner and to the Governor of Mauritius, and sent the poor man another Bible, with an inscription purporting that it came from the Society for the Promotion of Christian Knowledge. This time I found the book safe, and was glad to hear the man had been immolested.

Having arranged with Mr. Telfair the order of proceedings for the next day, I returned to the ship, and from thence went to the Island of Praslin. It was rather late when we landed, and the latter part of our journey to the opposite side was done in the dark. It was, however, with very great satisfaction that I found so many of the parishioners waiting for me,—some on the top of the hill,—others at various stations on the way side, that I was able to have an evening service; the only light in the church being placed near enough to the reading desk for the officiating clergyman to see. Anticipating a hard day's work on the morrow, viz. the consecration service, the confirmation, the communion, and baptisms afterwards, besides a much longer walk back, I gave them the sermon overnight, and had good reason to be glad that I had done so when the next day came. I should observe here that the congregation are so well trained by their catechist, Philippe Annette, who is supported by the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, that they repeated the responses and sang the hymn by heart, without the aid of candles.

The next morning early, it was a very animating sight to witness the people assembling from different parts for the solemn services of the house of God. Pirogues heavily laden with their living freight coming round the headlands; pedestrians coming along the shore or emerging from the palm plantations at the base of the mountain; and lastly, the party from the "Lynx," Mr. and Mrs. Telfair, Mr. Caldwell, Dr. Brooks, the captain and other officers of the ship, coming down the steep hill side with some of the kroomen and others, sailors, made a most lively and interesting scene. The services commenced at about nine, and lasted some hours, as there were a hundred and twelve communicants and fifty-four candidates for confirmation, with several baptisms. The house in which we had our meals had been erected by the people since my last visit for the purposes of a school, and very earnest requests were made by the chaplain, Dr. Fallet, by the catechist, and by members of the flock for a good schoolmaster. I am anxiously looking out to supply this want, and should be very thankful if in other places the same practical earnestness in the cause of education were shown by those who ask for help in securing its benefits. The school-house served as a sleeping place for myself and Mr. Merindon, R.E., who had accompanied me over the hill before, and who was very much struck with the zeal of the islanders for the services of the church.

On the morning of the Thursday, as there were two or three hours before starting, I went once more to see the poor lepers, and had a very favourable opportunity for speaking to them on the consolations of the word of God. By standing in a central position I was able to read and explain a passage of scripture so as to be heard by them and to elicit answers to my questions, after which I read some of the collects, and left them with a blessing. Hearing that the cemetery was not very distant, I went thither, with Mr. Forbes, the superintendent of the establishment, whom I found very obliging and attentive. The graves were in very good order, a large proportion of them having masonry and plaster, and I found that there is a kind of understanding among the afflicted community on the island that survivors will pay especial attention to the graves of the dead.

One or two epitaphs on the graves of English sailors, and a very quaint one on the headstone of one of the women's graves, evidently written by a clever man, caused remembrances of Europe to mingle with other feelings excited by the view of that burial-ground. The loveliness of the surrounding scenery close upon the coral beach, within hearing of the breakers, and within sight of the bright sea under the light of a tropical sun, contrasted strangely with the thoughts suggested by the graves of such children of sorrow as the exiles from England, and the lepers from islands of Africa. It is under such circumstances that the consolations of the Gospel appear in their brightest lustre.

Before we quitted Curieuse, the "Lynx" was under weigh, and we got on board in the channel between the two islands. Rather more than an hour's steering brought us off the Pass at La Digue. Here we landed and walked for about a mile, till we reached the building erected there for a church since my last visit. The work is quite in its infancy here, and is conducted by the Praslin catechist under Dr. Fallet's supervision. Though much interested in the little flock assembled in the neat wooden edifice, and encouraged by the promising appearance of progress amongst them, I felt it would be better to license the building than to consecrate it, and therefore read some of the prayers only in the consecration service, and had the petition for a license drawn out. A good schoolmaster is greatly wanted here also.

On my return to Mahé I was able to visit many of the congregation at their homes near the town, and at a distance from it. Sick and aged people were particularly pleased at being thus remembered, and I do not think that I ever met with more cordial expressions of welcome in any of my pastoral

MAURITIUS. ministrations. The extent to which many now grown up have profited from the schools so long supported by the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, and the benefit which the young are now deriving from the same schools, under the direction of a local committee, with Government grants in aid, together with the blessings conferred on them by the able and zealous ministrations of the civil chaplain, combine to produce and strengthen the feeling of grateful attachment with which a large class of the population regards the Church of England. On one occasion I went by invitation, accompanied by the Rev. Dr. Fallet, to a hamlet on the opposite side of the island, called Bel Ombre, and found between 20 and 30 persons assembled to discuss the question of a chapel school to be built amongst them. After a religious service we settled on the piece of ground for the site, and arranged that a young woman from the spot, who had been a pupil in the school in town, should return to that school for a short time to become qualified for a teacher. I endeavoured to make an arrangement somewhat similar to this for another district still farther away from the town, and hope that with God's blessing we may succeed in giving the blessings of education, however elementary, to every hamlet in the island. There is a loud call for such efforts, and there will be need of no little labour to persevere with them, for ignorance of the grossest kind prevails in many parts.

Before I pass from the account of our work at Seychelles, I must mention the valuable help given to me by Mr. Caldwell, who had accepted the honorary office of Deputy Registrar, and whose acquaintance with legal forms and documents enabled him to regulate all the matters connected with the consecration and license of churches in such a way that I had no trouble whatever in that respect. The hospitality with which Mr. Telfair entertained us has been gratefully acknowledged to himself; but I do not like to omit mentioning it in such a Report as this, nor the kindness and attention with which the captain of the "Lynx" helped me to carry out my plans in visiting the different stations in the islands where work had to be done.

The arrival of a vessel from Providence Island gave me a good opportunity of ascertaining the manner of life of the fishermen employed during certain seasons only at such places. All the Seychelles fishermen from the Amirantes also arrived while I was there; and I landed on three islands, St.-Annés, Ile Longue, and Ile-aux Cerfs, besides obtaining full particulars about Silhouette, Ile Félicité, and Ile Frégate, from those who had resided on those islands for a long period, so that the condition of the whole of that part of the diocese was very fully brought before me. It was with much satisfaction I found that individuals returning from those islands or living on them were in many cases able to read and write intelligently and well, tracing their ability to do this entirely to their former connexion with our schools at Mahé.

I had made up my mind to return to Mauritius as soon as the object of my visit to the Seychelles was accomplished, if an opportunity presented itself; but not meeting with a vessel returning soon enough, I proceeded in the "Lynx" to the islands of the Chagos Archipelago. In all of them I found a good proportion of Protestants, and many persons unbaptised, as well as Roman Catholics. Without any exception, they gladly received the word of instruction and exhortation; and it was most gratifying and encouraging to me to find in those remote islands persons who had been taught the simple truths of Christianity in the schools of the late Mr. Banks, of Mr. Le Brun, Mr. Delafontaine, Mr. Clark, Mr. Anderson, and Mr. Jenkins. For instance, in the Peros Banhos group I met with two members of Mr. Dejoux's congregation at Vacoas, from whom I borrowed a French Liturgy for the baptism of a little child. At the Solomon Islands, members of Mr. Le Brun's congregation directed me to a clever well-instructed man, a malgache, whom I recognized as a canditate for employment in our schools. At the Three Brothers, a man from Mr. Dejoux and two from Mr. Le Brun came on board the ship. At the Six Islands a malgache from Mr. Le Brun's congregation had built an elegant little chapel that he might gather his fellow labourers for Christian worship, while others spoke of Mr. Jenkins as having instructed them in the truth. On one of the three estates at Diego a man repeated to me the Lord's Prayer and the Belief in English, as he had been taught many years ago by Mr. Banks. At another a pupil of Mr. Anderson's was the receiver of my tracts, and at a third a leading workman who read well, had been taught by Mr. Jenkins; while one of the best pupils of our Vacoas Schools was found in a *case* near his and among the sick and infirm who could read.* Mr. Clarke and Mr. Delafontaine were named to me as their former teachers.

* Sic.

At Diego there were a goodly number of Indians; and from them—from the Creoles, there and elsewhere, and from the greater part of their masters, I received urgent applications for teachers. On Whitsunday I baptized two men on the quarter-deck of the "Lynx" whom I had seen in the morning, and again in the evening of the day before; and I believe that a most interesting and promising field of labour is opened in those oil-producing islands—for the catechist in the first place, and then for one who could itinerate, preach, and baptize. It would be a happy prospect for me to entertain the hope of being called to make a tour in those parts again, to confirm those who should have been thus prepared.

The kind hospitality of the managers of the estates at Diego Garcia is so well known by the reports of others, that it may seem superfluous in me to mention it; but I cannot refrain from the grateful acknowledgment that it was most cordially manifested to me.

I have, &c.

VINCENT W. MAURITIUS.

EXTRACT from a REPORT of the COMMISSIONERS appointed by his Excellency the GOVERNOR to visit the SMALLER DEPENDENCIES of MAURITIUS, and to enquire into the CONDITION of the LABOURERS employed therein. MAURITIUS.

IN compliance with the directions of his Excellency, as conveyed in the Honourable Colonial Secretary's letter of 28th April last, and accompanying instructions, we have the honour to submit the following report :—

In each island and establishment we visited, we first of all applied to the manager for information as to the number of labourers under his direction, the general population, production, &c., and visited his stores of food, and examined the quality of the rice, &c. We also visited the establishment in general, the camp, the mills, and oil stores, and examined the books. Finally, we mustered the labourers, explained his Excellency's proclamation to them in Creole, and expressed ourselves ready to hear anything they had to say, and to receive any complaints they had to make.

His Excellency's instructions contemplate three classes of complaints which might be brought before us by labourers or other servants against their employers, the first of which is—

"Of having been brought into the dependency unlawfully and against their will."

We are happy to be able to state that, although this point was clearly brought before the labourers, no complaint of the kind was preferred to us; and we have reason to believe that, except in the case of a few old men, some of them remaining from the time of slavery, there appears to be no reason for believing that the labourers at present in these dependencies have been introduced there otherwise than legally, and from Mauritius.

The second class of complaints would include such as relate to "having been unlawfully detained "there against their will after their engagements had terminated."

We have not had any instance of illegal detention brought to our notice.

In point of fact, from what we gathered from both masters and labourers, no written engagements are ever made, nor are any engagements made as to time, the usual way being that the owners, or their agents in Port Louis, arrange with the labourers there to go and work in their islands, and see if they like the work, offering them a return passage if they are not satisfied to remain. It is true, and frankly avowed by almost all the managers, that they try by every lawful means to induce the men to remain in the islands, but that they are not retained against their will; and their assertion is indirectly corroborated by the circumstance, that although several men requested in our hearing to have passages by the next ships, yet, when we asked them, "Had a passage been refused to them?" we received a negative answer in each case.

The third class of complaints would embrace all charges "of having been treated with cruelty or "oppression, or illegally imprisoned against their will."

This category may again be divided into two; firstly, cruelty or personal chastisement, and secondly, illegal imprisonment.

Amongst various cases of blows brought to our notice, we found only one instance in which a blow had been inflicted by any one in authority, and then not by a master, but a subordinate. In every other case it turned out upon enquiry that the blows had been dealt to one labourer by another, irrespective of their work, and always in the nature of quarrels in the camp. These we of course dismissed with an admonition to both parties. The particular case we refer to will be found in our Report upon East Point estate, Diego Garcia.

With respect to the other category, namely, imprisonment, we shall notice it at length under the heads of Peros Banhos and Boddam Estate, Solomon Islands. We may remark, however, in passing, that we have met with only one case (which occurred at Peros Banhos) where such imprisonment or rather sequestration has been resorted to to enforce labour, and that all the information we have been able to collect tends to bear out the assertion of those managers who have on any occasion confined a man in his hut or their store-room, that it has been in the case of a drunken or angry man threatening his comrades with a knife, billhook, or deadly weapon, and only continued until he became sober, or his reason returned.

His Excellency having directed our particular attention to "Moresby Island," and the alleged imprisonment exercised there, we have appended at full length extracts from the Journal of Peros Banhos Estate, referring to every case that has occurred since the 1st of April 1857, the date at which the journal commenced. We also notice the matter in our detailed report on that estate.

We have received no complaints as to any non-payment of wages or withholding of rations, except in the case of the Six Islands, to which we shall have to call his Excellency's notice. There, from the gross negligence of the owners or agent at Port Louis, the labourers were left without rations for a considerable time. We have found that the rations are not withheld or diminished even where men have indulged in one or more days' idleness, and that although the day's pay has in such instances been deducted, there is no instance in which the system permitted in Mauritius of cutting two days' pay for one day's unlicensed absence has been put in force.

We have not had occasion, in any case, to make written engagements between masters and servants. Although we mentioned that we were ready and empowered to make such engagements, the labourers declined in every instance, though in some the masters were desirous of doing so.

The frivolous nature of the charges brought before us, as above related, has not appeared to us to require that we should put in force his Excellency's directions to take down evidence in writing on the several charges made to us.

In conclusion, we have endeavoured to carry out his Excellency's directions to act as conciliators between employers and employed, and to urge upon them mutual kindness and good will, and we trust with success.*

* Here follow voluminous details, which it is not necessary to print.

MAURITIUS.

We beg to conclude our Report by the following suggestions on points that have occurred to us during our inspection, some of which are not touched upon in the preceding Report.

Firstly, we would draw his Excellency's attention to the great disproportion of sexes in the various islands, as will appear from the tables of population. The managers have themselves, in general, originated this delicate question, and we believe both managers and owners sincerely desire to amend it.

We also conceive it would be much more satisfactory to both managers and future visitors were it possible to have a written agreement made in Mauritius with the labourers, a duplicate of which might be sent to the islands. It would save much time, and prevent many disputes, to be able to ascertain by such a document all the conditions of an engagement. It would also be some check upon the due return or voluntary extension of engagements of the labourers when their original term was expired.

The managers, in every case where rum is given, informed us that they insisted upon its being drunk "at the tub," as in Her Majesty's navy. They applied to us to direct them in presence of their men not to issue any otherwise, and we did so in every case, in order that none might be taken into the camp, and give occasion to drunkenness.

The chief demand for more labour in these islands is not to increase the present plantations, but to clean and thin them, by which the production would be much increased.

We consider, on a careful review of all we have seen, that the labour in these islands is far less severe than the labour imposed upon similar persons in Mauritius, and the abundance of fish along all their coasts is such that they can, literally, walk into the water, and, in a few minutes, get such a supply as would be a banquet to many of a far superior class in Mauritius. As a general rule, as the islands are all healthy, and abound in all the necessaries of life (except rice, with which they are amply supplied), the inhabitants have nothing to desire. Fowls and hogs come for the trouble of rearing them. The only thing, therefore, that can, in our humble opinion, be done for them is a renewal of these visits of inspection, which will foster a kindly feeling between men already looking up to the Governor for justice and protection, and induce them to labour still more cheerfully than they do at present.

All which is respectfully submitted for his Excellency's consideration.

H. BERKELEY,
Lieutenant Commanding "Lynx,"
J. CALDWELL,
} Commissioners visiting Dependencies.

Port Louis, 28th June 1859.

Population of Dependencies visited, 1859.

	Cœtivy.				Peros Banhos.				Eagle Island.				Solomon Islands. Ile Fouquet.				Solomon Islands. Boddum.				Solomon Islands. Total.				Six Islands.				Diego Garcia. Minny Minny.				Diego Garcia. East Point.				Diego Garcia. Pt. Mariana.				Diego Garcia. Total.			
	M.	W.	B.	G.	M.	W.	B.	G.	M.	W.	B.	G.	M.	W.	B.	G.	M.	W.	B.	G.	M.	W.	B.	G.	M.	W.	B.	G.	M.	W.	B.	G.	M.	W.	B.	G.	M.	W.	B.	G.	M.	W.	B.	G.
Managers' Families	1	1	2	2	2	1	–	–	1	1	1	2	1	2	–	1	1	1	1	1	2	3	1	2	2	1	–	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	3	2	1	–	–	–	4	3	4	4
Europeans	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	1	–	–	–
Indians	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	35	2	–	–	10	–	–	–	46	2	–	–
Mozambique	–	–	–	–	20	3	–	–	3	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	3	1	–	–	4	1	–	–	5	1	–	–	7	2	–	–	11	1	–	–	4	–	–	–	22	3	–	–
Malgache	2	2	–	–	19	1	–	–	4	1	–	–	3	–	–	–	24	1	–	–	27	1	–	–	14	2	–	–	6	–	–	–	10	–	–	–	13	1	–	–	29	1	–	–
Mauritians	25	5	–	–	15	6	–	–	7	–	2	1	11	1	–	–	9	3	2	4	20	4	2	4	13	1	–	–	11	2	–	–	84	8	3	1	36	9	7	1	131	19	10	2
Johanna	–	–	–	–	4	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	4	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	5	–	–	–
Seychelles	–	–	–	–	3	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	1	–	–	1	1	–	–	1	–	–	–	3	–	–	–	3	2	–	–	1	–	–	–	7	2	–	–
Diego Garcia	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	1	1	5	2	8	7	5	2	1	–	2	3	2	3	12	7	11	10
Agalega	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Six Islands	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	1	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	2	–	–
Bourbon	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Solomon Islands	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Peros Banhos	–	–	–	–	4	7	8	8	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Cœtivy	–	–	1	3	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
	28	8	3	5	67	21	8	8	18	2	3	3	17	3	–	1	40	8	3	5	57	11	3	6	36	5	1	2	35	8	9	9	154	18	7	3	69	13	9	4	258	39	25	16
	44				104				26				21				56				77				44				61				182				95				338			
Proportion of Women to Men excluding Manager's Family	26 in 100.				30 in 100.				$5\frac{9}{10}$ in 100.				$6\frac{1}{4}$ in 100.				$17\frac{1}{2}$ in 100.								$11\frac{7}{10}$ in 100.				20 in 100.				$10\frac{1}{2}$ in 100.				Nearly 20 in 100.							

MAURITIUS.

Appendix.

APPENDIX.

COPY of a LETTER from C. H. C. PLOWDEN, Esq., to HERMAN MERIVALE, Esq.

SIR, India Board, 5th August 1858.

I AM directed by the Commissioners for the Affairs of India to transmit to you, to be laid before Sir Edward Bulwer Lytton, the copy of a letter from the Court of Directors of the East India Company respecting the compulsory education of children in the Mauritius.

30th July 1858.

The Board desire me to state that they are disposed to concur in the views of the Court of Directors expressed in the above letter; but before sanctioning the transmission of Mr. Dickenson's letter to the Government of India which the Court propose, they request to be favoured with any observations which Her Majesty's Secretary of State may have to make upon the subject.

I have, &c.

Herman Merivale, Esq. (Signed) C. H. C. PLOWDEN.
&c. &c.

Enclosure.

SIR, East India House, 30th July 1858.

THE attention of the Court of Directors has been called to an ordinance of the legislature of the Mauritius, passed in July 1857, for rendering compulsory the education of children in that Colony*; which, with the correspondence relating to it, has recently been laid before Parliament.

It was the opinion of the late Governor of the Mauritius, Sir James M. Higginson, that the education of the children of Indian immigrants should be provided for in separate schools, and through the medium of the vernacular languages of the several classes of immigrants. The question was discussed at some length before the ordinance was finally passed; but it was eventually settled, in opposition to the opinion of Sir James Higginson, that no separate schools should be provided for the Indian children, and that those children should receive instruction in common with the rest of the children in the Colony, through the medium of the French language.

The Court regret that the course usually followed in cases involving the comfort and well-being of natives of India resorting for service to the Colonies, was not taken on this occasion, and that an opportunity was not afforded to them or to the Government of India, of expressing an opinion on the question before the passing of the ordinance.

The Court are not prepared to object to the enforcement, in the case of Indian children, of the system of compulsory education which it was proposed to apply to the juvenile population of the Mauritius generally. They would, on the contrary, rejoice that the children of the Indian labourers should be brought under the civilizing influence of an efficient course of instruction; but it appears to the Court to be altogether unjust to impose on the Indian children a positive obligation to attend the schools established for the general population of the Mauritius, when such obligation involves the necessity, without regard to the wishes either of themselves or of their parents, of receiving instruction through an unknown and foreign tongue.

The Court cannot admit the justice of the view put forward in the letter of Mr. Secretary Labouchere, of the 12th August 1856, that it was allowable for the colonial authorities to decide on the course which has been taken because the education to be given to the Indian children was "to "be given at the cost of the people of the Mauritius, who must naturally wish to encourage the "Indians to remain, and with that view to educate them in that dialect which is spoken by the "majority of the tax-paying classes of the Colony." The right of the Colony to force a system of education on the Indian children from which their mother-tongue is excluded, is further asserted by the special Committee of Council, on the ground of the great advantage derived by Indian immigrants from employment in the Colony.

The Court would here remark that the education to be given to the children is not to be gratuitous, as supposed by Mr. Labouchere, for a fee is to be paid for each child greatly exceeding the fee paid for primary education in India, and in excess also of the amount charged in ordinary cases for the children of the poor in this country. The Court have never failed to acknowledge the advantage afforded to the natives of India from the present well-regulated system of emigration, but they are not prepared to admit that the benefits which the Indian labourers derive from the system preponderate so greatly, if at all, over those accruing to the Colony, as to support the argument built upon it by the special committee. The Court, therefore, cannot allow that on the ground of any supposed advantage to the children, or to the Colony in the case of the children eventually settling in the Mauritius, the Government of that Colony is justified in compelling the Indian children to enter schools in which they will necessarily be taught many things inconsistent with the religious belief of their parents, will be debarred from the use of their own tongue, and will be forced to receive instruction in a foreign language. The Court request that these remarks may be brought under the consideration of Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies, and in the

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* The Ordinance, No. 21. of 1857, "for rendering compulsory the education of children in the Colony," will be found printed in House of Commons Paper, No. 31 of 1859, Session 1, page 333 (West India Immigation).

meantime the Court have prepared paragraphs which are herewith submitted for the approval of the Board of Commissioners for the Affairs of India, calling for a report from the Government of India on the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. D. DICKENSON.

Draft 947.

The Secretary, India Board.

COPY of a LETTER from H. MERIVALE, Esq., C.B. to Sir GEORGE CLERK, K.C.B.

SIR, Downing Street, 7th April 1859.

WITH reference to Mr. Plowden's letter of the 5th August last, with its enclosure, expressing the opinion of the late Court of Directors of the East India Company upon an ordinance passed by the Mauritius Government for rendering compulsory the education of children in that island, I am to express Sir Edward Lytton's regret that by some mistake this answer has not been sooner sent.

The Directors entertained objections to some of its provisions, and expressed their regret that they had not been consulted on the measure before the ordinance was passed.

Sir E. B. Lytton desires me to state, for the information of the Secretary of State for India, that the question whether the compulsory system of education to be established in Mauritius should be extended to the children of Indian immigrants, and if so extended, whether the education should be imparted in Indian dialects or in the language of the Colony, was one which Mr. Labouchere had considered very carefully; and there can be no doubt that had it occurred to him that the late Court of Directors, or the Indian Government, would have wished to have been consulted on the question, or would have been enabled to assist him in the consideration of it, he would have taken the course which it now appears that the late Court of Directors were of opinion that he should have taken, in making it the subject of a reference to the Court. But, as hitherto almost all the children born in Mauritius, or taken thither, have remained there (the proportion who have returned to India not being above $\frac{1}{5}$th), it might naturally have appeared to Mr. Labouchere that they had become identified with the population of Mauritius, and that the functions of the Indian Government had ceased in respect of them. The parents of the children may be assumed to be, in all probability, permanent inhabitants of the Colony, as well as the children themselves, since the immigrants who return to India are chiefly those who left their families behind them.

Sir E. B. Lytton, however, regards with great respect the desire of the late Court of Directors and the Indian Government to extend their care and protection even to the children of those who have once been under their government, and he will not fail, if the Secretary of State for India should wish it, to seek his advice on any occasion in which it shall appear to be possible that that advice might be of assistance in promoting the welfare of the Indian population of Mauritius, which is now indeed the main population of the island.

With regard to the education ordinance, Sir E. B. Lytton is glad to find that the late Court of Directors did not object to the enforcement, in the case of Indian children, of the system of compulsory education, which is to be applied to the juvenile population of Mauritius generally; their objections having been expressed to what they considered the injustice of imposing on the Indian children a positive obligation, without regard to the wishes either of themselves or of their parents, of receiving instruction through an unknown and foreign tongue, and of entering schools in which "they will necessarily be taught many things inconsistent with the religious belief of their parents."

With regard to the question of religion, as the law provides that no religious instruction is to be given in the schools to any child whose parents object to such instruction, Sir E. B. Lytton conceives that the objection taken by the late Court had reference to some secular knowledge conflicting with Indian creeds, which cannot but be imparted in schools conducted by teachers of European extraction, and in a European tongue; but Sir E. B. Lytton is not informed as to what this objectionable secular knowledge may be. The late Court, however, not only did not object to "the enforcement "in the case of Indian children of the system of compulsory education which it was proposed to "apply to the juvenile population of Mauritius generally," but declared that it would "rejoice that "the children of the Indian labourers should be brought under the civilizing influence of an "efficient course of instruction." Sir Edward can therefore scarcely suppose that there is much of the secular knowledge usually imparted in schools which the late Court would have taken exception to, as conflicting with Indian creeds, or that the portion of such knowledge which might be considered objectionable on this score, could not be separated and excluded, only because the language used is European.

With respect to the obligation of learning in a foreign language, apart from questions of creed, Sir E. B. Lytton conceives that the principle of compulsory education assumes the inaptitude of the children and their parents to make choice of the particular sort of secular knowledge which the children are to acquire, and devolves upon the State the duty of choosing for them that which will be most for their advantage. If so, it is difficult to imagine that any secular teaching whatever could be more important to the welfare of the Indian children than that which should add to their necessary knowledge of their native tongues, a knowledge of the language spoken by the civilized and educated inhabitants, and the employers of labour in the country in which they live, and are likely to continue to live. Nevertheless, if Lord Stanley should concur in the objections of the late Court of Directors, Sir E. B. Lytton would be ready to give his best attention to any scheme which his Lordship might be able to suggest, whereby Indian teachers, or teachers conversant with Hindostanee and Tamul, (the languages chiefly spoken by the Coolies in Mauritius,) could be provided for the Indian children in the colonial schools. Sir Edward would at the same time be glad to know whether, if no such scheme were found to be practicable, his Lordship would wish that Indian

children should not be subjected to a system of compulsory education at all. This question, however' is by no means confined to the Indians only, since the strong objections to class legislation adverted to by Sir J. Higginson, in his Despatch No. 141, of the 4th August 1857, might possibly require the abandonment of compulsory education as a whole, if it should become necessary to exempt the Indian portion of the population.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. MERIVALE.

Sir George R. Clerk, K.C.B.

COPY of a LETTER from J. C. MELVILL, Esq. to HERMAN MERIVALE, Esq., C.B.

SIR, India Office, 18th May 1859.

I HAVE laid before the Secretary of State for India in Council your letter dated the 7th April, communicating the remarks of the Secretary of State for the Colonies on the objections taken by the late Court of Directors to the existing plan of compulsory education in the Mauritius, with reference to its bearing on the children of Indian immigrants in the Colony.

Lord Stanley has carefully considered the remarks and arguments contained in your letter; and without entering on a consideration of the points urged in the letter of the Court of Directors, his Lordship thinks it sufficient to observe that, in his opinion, the most satisfactory mode of settling the question will be to render the attendance of the Indian children at school optional instead of compulsory, as it appears to him that it would not be just to compel the children or their parents to submit to conditions of which they were not apprized at the time of their quitting India.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) J. COMO MELVILL.

Herman Merivale, Esq., C.B.,
&c. &c. &c.

LONDON:
Printed by GEORGE EDWARD EYRE and WILLIAM SPOTTISWOODE,
Printers to the Queen's most Excellent Majesty.
For Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

THE

REPORTS

Made for the Year 1858 *to the Secretary of State having the Department of the Colonies; in continuation of the Reports annually made by the Governors of the British Colonies, with a view to exhibit generally*

THE PAST AND PRESENT STATE

OF

HER MAJESTY'S COLONIAL POSSESSIONS.

TRANSMITTED WITH THE BLUE BOOKS
For the Year 1858.

PART II.

NORTH AMERICAN COLONIES;
AFRICAN SETTLEMENTS AND ST. HELENA;
AUSTRALIAN COLONIES AND NEW ZEALAND;
EASTERN COLONIES;
MEDITERRANEAN POSSESSIONS AND IONIAN ISLANDS, &c.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
July 1860.



LONDON:
PRINTED BY GEORGE EDWARD EYRE AND WILLIAM SPOTTISWOODE,
PRINTERS TO THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.
FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE.
1860.

SCHEDULE.

PART II.

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NORTH AMERICAN COLONIES.

CANADA.

No. 1.

CANADA.

No. 1.

COPY of DESPATCH from the Right Honourable Sir EDMUND W. HEAD, Bart. to his Grace the Duke of NEWCASTLE.

No. 102.

Government House, Toronto, C. W.,
August 29, 1859.

MY LORD DUKE,

IN my Despatch of August 30, 1858, No. 118, which accompanied the Blue Book for 1857, I made use of the following words :—

" Still I believe that substantially the resources of the country are unimpaired, and " that its tendency to advance will overcome the depression which now weighs " us down."

The progress of Canada since that Despatch was written has shown me I had estimated correctly the nature of the depression under which we suffered. Slowly and gradually, the prosperity of the country has been reviving, and the abundance of the present harvest will do much to complete its recovery.

2. It is estimated that the produce of winter and spring wheat for 1857 and 1858 was as follows :

1857.	Winter wheat, per acre	- - -	20 Bushels.
,,	Spring ,, ,,	- - -	12 ,,
1858.	Winter ,, ,,	- - -	$11\frac{1}{4}$,,
,,	Spring ,, ,,	- - -	$13\frac{1}{2}$,,

With regard to the latter year, the Minister of Agriculture in his last report expresses himself in these words :—

" Taking the usual average of winter wheat at 18 bushels per acre, the deficiency " of this year's crop is about 36 per cent. ; and taking the spring wheat at 16 bushels per " acre, the deficiency will be about 16 per cent."

This falling off in our produce, added to the unnatural inflation of credit which preceded the monetary crisis, will long make its effects felt. Many a man who thought himself possessed of 30,000*l.* or 40,000*l.*, and lived and speculated accordingly, suddenly found that the land indeed which was supposed to be worth that sum was there, but that such land had become utterly unsaleable at any price. Others, who had actually sold land or houses at a high rate, and had calculated on being paid by instalments, spread over perhaps ten years, suddenly found that the purchaser did not possess a farthing to pay the next instalment, and that neither he himself nor his debtor could obtain discount or credit at any bank in the Province or the United States. All plans of investment and engagements made with a view to future profit were thus deranged. In the same manner, persons relying on the interest of mortgages for income were obliged to postpone indefinitely their chance of obtaining payment. If they foreclosed they obtained only that which could not be turned into money at the moment, and they had to defray the expense of the legal proceedings.

3. All this reacted on trade ; shop bills remained unpaid, and goods lay unsold on the hands of the importer, who was bound to meet his bills in England or in the United States. As a matter of course, importations fell off, and commerce was paralyzed.

4. One beneficial effect will no doubt follow from this painful process. Men will learn, for the time at least, to estimate more truly the real amount of what they possess. Land speculation had become so successful that there was no upward limit to the nominal price offered for real property. Men reckoned on this nominal price as if it had been the true value, and regulated their expenditure accordingly. They have been undeceived, and it is to be hoped that the estimate they will now form of their own wealth will be more consistent with the truth and the circumstances of the country.

It followed necessarily that this derangement in private affairs reacted also on the public revenue of the Province. If there were no buyers the merchants ceased to import, and customs duties decreased in proportion. The falling off in our revenue in 1858, as compared with 1857, is sufficiently shown by the fact that in the March quarter of the latter year the value of goods imported was no less than $6,046,046, and the duty collected thereon amounted to $726,699, whilst in the corresponding quarter of 1858

these sums suddenly fell to $3,612,376 and $428,370 respectively. In the March quarter of this year, on the other hand (1859), the value of imported goods entered has been $5,730,691, and the duty levied has produced $799,116.

5. The large rate of duties now levied is in itself a subject of great regret; but increased taxation became necessary in order to meet our engagements to the Provincial creditors. No one is more convinced than I am of the inexpediency of high duties, and of the fallacy of protection, but I cannot undertake to infuse my own opinions suddenly or completely into the population of the Colony. It must be remembered, too, that the tide of conviction in favour of free trade took some time to set in fully in the mind of the English Parliament itself, and allowances must be made for our close contact with the United States, where a very different theory, unfortunately for all parties, continues to prevail. Under a free Government, in which a Provincial Parliament vote the supplies, the taxes must be levied in the manner which the representatives of the people believe to be the best. It may be that direct taxation would be far less injurious to Canada than the prevent revenue derived from Customs' duties; but whether this be so or not, no such system can be adopted until the convictions of the people at large shall have acquiesced in its enforcement. Yet in the meantime revenue must be raised, and although the manufacturers of England may complain of the tariff, the people of Canada are the first persons to be consulted thereon.

6. With regard, however, to our financial position, the fact is, that the country, like many individuals, has been spending more than it could afford. The whole of the Grand Trunk Railway, from St. Thomas's in Lower Canada to Sarnia, Canada West, will shortly have been made, in the space of six years. Other railways and public works too have had to be constructed and kept up at the same time; and an outlay of this kind, which ought perhaps, in prudence, to have been spread over many years, has been brought to bear with its full weight on the resources of the Colony within a very limited period. All this expenditure is not the result of recent measures, but of steps taken and engagements formed long ago. Now, without justifying or defending all the money votes of the Canadian Parliament, the real pressure on the ways and means of the Province arises from the interest on this debt. We are at this moment in the position of a man who has borrowed money largely to improve his estates by drainage and buildings, but who has not yet received any increased rent in consideration of such outlay. He must pay the interest on the sums he has borrowed, and must struggle on, as he best may, until the improvement of the soil begins to tell on his receipts.

The report of the Minister of Finance will supply your Grace with full information on the present condition of our revenue.

7. The lake trade with Europe, through the canals, continues to develope itself, if the following table extracted from a Detroit paper is to be trusted:—

Progress of the Through Trade.

The Detroit Advertiser gives the following table of the relative progress of the trade of the Lake Ports with Liverpool and other places across the Atlantic:—

Vessel.		Cargo.	Destination.
	1856.		
Schooner	Dean Richmond	Wheat	Liverpool.
	1857.		
Bark	C. J. Kershaw	Staves	Liverpool.
Schooner	Madeira Pet	Hides and staves	Liverpool.
	1858.		
Bark	H. E. Howe	Lumber and staves	London.
,,	D. C. Pierce	Staves	Liverpool.
,,	E. S. Adams	Lumber	Liverpool.
,,	C. J. Kershaw	Lumber and staves	Liverpool.
Brig	Black Hawk	Lumber and staves	Liverpool.
Schooner	Chieftain	Staves	Liverpool.
,,	Colonel Cook	Lumber and staves	Liverpool.
,,	R. H. Hartman	Staves	Liverpool.
,,	R. B. Sexton	Lumber and staves	London.
,,	Correspondent	Wheat	Liverpool.
,,	John F. Warner	Staves	Greenock.
,,	C. Reeve	Lumber and staves	Liverpool.
,,	Harvest	Lumber and staves	Hamburg.

1859.

Bark	D. C. Pierce	Staves	Liverpool.
„	Masillon	Lumber and staves	Liverpool.
„	W. S. Pierson	Lumber and staves	Liverpool.
„	Alleis	Lumber and staves	Cork.
Brig	J. G. Deshler	Staves	Undecided.
„	Caroline	Lumber and staves	Liverpool.
„	Black Hawk	Staves	Undecided.
Schooner	R. G. Harman	Staves	Liverpool.
„	Jno. F. Warner	Staves	Liverpool.
„	Gold Hunter	Staves	Cork.
„	G. D. Donsman	Staves	London.
„	Valeria	Lumber and staves	Liverpool.
„	Vanguard	Staves	Liverpool.
„	Grand Turk	Lumber	Hamburg.
„	St. Helena	Lumber and staves	Cork.
„	Chieftain	Lumber and staves	Undecided.
„	C. H. Walker	Lumber and staves	Liverpool.
„	M. S. Scott	Lumber	Hamburg.
„	Eveline Bates	Lumber and staves	Liverpool.
„	Hugh Barclay	Staves	London.
„	Republican	Lumber and staves	Liverpool.

The following table gives the amount of the different articles thus exported during each year. The Table is not perfectly accurate, only approximately so, as it is impossible at the present time to obtain the correct figures:—

1856.	
Wheat, bushels	15,000
1857.	
Hides, No.	3,000
Staves, No.	120,000
1858.	
Wheat, bushels	12,000
Lumber, feet	575,000
Staves, No.	700,000
1859.	
Lumber, feet	1,100,000
Staves, No. (West India Standard)	2,000,000

In addition to the above shipments to Europe, we notice the following vessels have also cleared for the different ports loaded with lumber:—

Vessel.		Where loaded.	Destination.
1858.			
Bark	Pamelia Flood	Green Bay	W. Indies.
1859.			
Brig	Sultan	Buffalo	New York.
Schooner	Clifton	Buffalo	Richmond.
„	Indus	Milwaukee	New York.
„	Adda	St. Joseph	Providence.
„	Metropolitan	Buffalo	New York.

8. On the other hand, the emigration of 1858 was small as compared with that of any preceding year. It is fortunate, perhaps, that it was so, as the pecuniary embarrassment and temporary want of capital in the Province has necessarily left many without work who were ready and willing to avail themselves of any reasonable offer. Australia and the Western prairies absorb a very large portion of the emigrants who would at one time have looked to Canada as their future home. The following table will give full information as to the emigration of the several years since 1829:—

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of the NUMBER of EMIGRANTS ARRIVED at the PORT of QUEBEC since the Year 1829, inclusive:—

	1829 to 1833.	1834 to 1838.	1839 to 1843.	1844 to 1848.	1849.	1850.	1851.	1852.	1853.	1854.	1855.	1856.	1857.	1858.
England	43,386	28,561	30,791	60,458	8,980	9,887	9,677	9,276	9,585	18,175	6,754	10,353	15,471	6,441
Ireland	102,266	54,904	74,981	112,192	23,126	17,976	22,381	15,983	14,417	16,165	4,106	1,688	2,016	1,153
Scotland	20,143	11,061	16,311	12,767	4,984	2,879	7,042	5,477	4,745	6,446	4,859	2,794	3,218	1,424
Continent of Europe	15	485	—	9,728	436	849	870	7,256	7,456	11,537	4,864	7,343	11,363	3,578
Lower Provinces	1,889	1,346	1,777	1,219	968	701	1,106	1,184	496	857	691	261	24	214
	167,699	96,357	123,816	196,359	38,494	32,292	41,076	39,176	36,699	53,183	21,274	22,439	32,097	12,810
Grand Total	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	913,815

Emigration Department,
Quebec, 31st December, 1858.

A. C. BUCHANAN,
Chief Agent.

9. The Indians have lately surrendered to the Provincial Government large tracts of land on Lake Superior and Lake Huron. The portion in the neighbourhood of the Sault St. Marie will be sold without delay at a moderate rate to *bonâ fide* settlers, and a great step will thus be made in the progress of civilization towards the north-west boundary of Canada.

10. Great credit is, in my opinion, due to my secretary, Mr. Pennefather, the Superintendent General of Indian affairs, for his success in negotiating with the Indians on these upper lakes. One or two previous attempts to obtain a surrender of land from them had failed.

11. There is one fact connected with the social state of Upper Canada which I notice with great regret, and that is, the very large number of capital convictions for murder and crimes of violence which have taken place in the course of the last year. About four months ago no less than seven persons were in this section of the Province lying at one time under sentence of death for murder. I have felt it my duty in almost every case which has recently occurred to leave the law to take its course. In one instance, at Toronto, I did so most reluctantly, from the youth of the criminal; but the safety of society seemed to require that examples should be made.

12. This case was one of a young man named Fleming, who stabbed another person in the street without apparent provocation of any kind. The crime was owing, no doubt, to the evil habit of carrying bowie knives or concealed weapons of some kind; a practice which the legislature, by an Act of last session, have attempted to check by direct legislation. I doubt much the possibility of so acting on this practice, however desirable it may be to do so. According to my belief, the real security for society depends on making the man who uses his revolver or his bowie knife abide by the consequences of his own act, be they what they may. If we desire to go further, nothing short of an inquisitorial police can effectually hinder this foolish custom of carrying such weapons, which comes to us from our neighbours in the Western States.

13. Another most atrocious case of poisoning was that of Dr. King, who was executed for the murder of his wife. This case was remarkable, from its extreme and deliberate cruelty, and on account of the fact that the criminal was brought back from the United States, not by any action or legal process on the part of the Canadian authorities, but by the energy of private vengeance, and the determination of the murdered woman's brother. This young man partly, as it appeared, by terror, and partly by the aid of some officer of the United States police whom he got to help him, succeeded in getting the criminal across the lake, though the latter was perfectly aware of the absence of any authority to apprehend him. When he was in Canada he was necessarily dealt with according to law, and was executed at Cobourg, confessing his guilt.

14. Tyler's case is of a different character, and has already received so much consideration from Her Majesty's Government as to require no notice here, especially as the proceedings in Michigan are still pending, and the correspondence with the United States Government is not yet closed.

15. I ought to call attention to the fact that the Militia Act was last year made permanent instead of temporary. I regret, however, to say, that the state of the finances caused the Provincial Parliament to reduce the sums allowed for the drill of the volunteer troops, companies and batteries of artillery, as well as some other portions of the establishment. Still the main organization of the force is left untouched, and some improvements of detail have been introduced into the Act.

16. The reports on the subject of education which accompany the Blue Book will show that great efforts in this important matter have continued to be made. The erection of a new building for the University of Toronto and University College will give increased importance to this institution.

17. The Chief Commissioner of Crown Lands has been most diligent in his endeavours to improve the system on which that department is conducted, and he has taken steps to check, in some degree the abuses connected with squatting, and with the loose management of some of the local agents.

18. The legislature last session re-imposed on newspapers carried by post a moderate rate of postage. Canadian newspapers had been since the year 1855 carried free, and the revival of newspaper postage has necessarily caused some outcry. A small payment, however, of this kind is not to be considered as a tax; it is in fact a reasonable charge for service rendered by the Government. Whether it was wise originally to abolish it is another question.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) EDMUND HEAD.

Nova Scotia.

NOVA SCOTIA.

[The annual Report for 1858 has not been received from the Province of Nova Scotia.]

New Brunswick.

NEW BRUNSWICK.

No. 2.

No. 2.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Lieut.-Governor the Hon. J. H. T. Manners Sutton to his Grace the Duke of Newcastle.

(No. 62.)

Government House, Fredericton,
New Brunswick, December 28, 1859.

My Lord Duke,

1. I have the honour to transmit to your Grace herein enclosed the Blue Book in duplicate of this Province for (1858) the last year. I have also the honour to forward to your Grace printed copies of several statistical returns and departmental reports, which, when taken in conjunction with the Blue Book returns, will, I hope, supply any deficiencies in the last-mentioned returns.

2. Before I submit to your Grace any remarks explanatory of or supplemental to these documents, I wish to refer shortly to events which, although they did not occur in the year 1858, necessarily affected the condition of the Province during that year.

3. It will be remembered that in the autumn of the preceding year (1857) a monetary and commercial crisis occurred, which for intensity and extent, while it lasted, was almost unparalleled.

This crisis was probably more severely felt in the United States (where it originated) than in any other part of the world, and the character, as well as the extent, of the trade between this Province and the United States necessarily increased the pressure upon the mercantile community here.

4. Moreover, the fact that in this Province, as in the other British North American Provinces, the circulating medium consists of bank notes, payable indeed upon demand, but for the redemption of which, in the event of a sudden panic, the supply of bullion in the Province would, of course, be insufficient, was in the then existing state of the money market a cause for well-grounded alarm.

Every possible precaution, however, which the Government could adopt for maintaining confidence and upholding the public credit was taken. Some bullion was imported from England; and while it was publicly notified that the Government would neither receive nor offer in payment of claims on the Treasury any notes which were not redeemable in specie on presentation, care was taken to avoid, so far as it could be avoided consistently with an adherence by the Government to the above-mentioned notification, any step which might increase the pressure elsewhere. And it is a gratifying fact that during the whole of the crisis the payments from the Treasury continued to be made as usual without the slightest irregularity, and although at the same time the deposits in the Savings Banks amounted to nearly 90,000*l.* there was not the slightest appearance of a run on any one of these banks, or any symptom of distrust either in the determination or in the ability of the Government to meet their liabilities.

5. And although the depressed condition of some of the principal branches of the trade of the Province during the year 1857 had been a subject of regret, it is probable that the injurious effects of the crisis, when it occurred, were thereby decreased. While, therefore, in common with every other community dependent in any degree upon trade, the inhabitants of the Province suffered severely from the effects of the crisis, there was good reason, even at that time, for believing (and this expectation has been realized) that the distres would be but temporary; and the fact that the public credit had been maintained unimpaired under a pressure so sudden and so severe afforded an additional proof of its stability, and of the extent of the resources of the Province.

6. But the disastrous events which occurred at the close of 1857 necessarily exercised a very unfavourable influence on the trade of the Province during (1858) the ensuing year. And accordingly there was a marked decrease in the amount both of the exports from and of the imports into the Province, as well as in the number of new vessels built in the Province (and ship building for the British market is a large branch of business here), and a corresponding diminution in the revenues of the year, which (including all the various items of receipt) exhibited a decrease, when compared with the revenue of (1857) the preceding year, of nearly 30,000*l.* sterling.

The year 1858, then, was one of general depression; but I may be permitted (although the statement does not, strictly speaking, belong to an explanation of the condition of the Province during that year,) to state that during the last financial year, ending 31st October 1859, every branch of the trade of the Province (with the exception, perhaps, of that in ships, in which, however, some improvement has been shown,) has completely recovered; and the revenue of the year ending 31st October 1859 exhibits an increase over that of 1858 even more remarkable than the sudden decrease of revenue in the last-mentioned year.

7. In the course of the last few years large additions have been made to the public debt of the Province. But the increase in the debt is principally to be attributed to the expenditure on the railway now in course of construction between St. John and Shediac. Full information respecting the progress and condition of the railway works up to the close of 1858 is afforded in the report of the Railway Commissioners which accompanies this despatch. It is therefore unnecessary for me to offer any remarks on this subject; but I may state that I have every reason to believe that the whole line from St. John to Shediac will be opened for traffic in the course of 1860, the ensuing year.

8. But although the railway (which is constructed as a Government work) belongs to the Province, and is therefore to be regarded as the consideration on account of which the expense of constructing it, and consequent increase of debt, has been incurred by the Province, there can be no doubt that this increase of debt does render even more necessary than before the exercise of vigilance and economy, as regards the public expenditure. And your Grace will, I am sure, feel satisfaction in learning that the system under which the House of Assembly at large or a committee of the House prepared the estimates of receipts and expenditure (and it was competent for any member of the House to propose a grant of money from the Treasury for any purpose) has at length been exchanged for a better and a safer system. The initiation of money votes has been surrendered by the House of Assembly to the Government, whose duty it is to prepare the estimates, to propose the votes in supply, and to be prepared to show ways and means for meeting these votes, and who, therefore, are now wholly and completely responsible for the public expenditure.

Your Grace is aware that the adoption of this important change in the mode of administering the financial affairs of the Province has been repeatedly urged on the Provincial authorities by successive Secretaries of State, as the only effectual safeguard against financial irregularity; and it was for many years the subject of repeated recommendations by successive Lieutenant-Governors of the Province. It was not, however, until 1856 that this recommendation found any favour with the House of Assembly. In that year, however, a resolution was proposed and carried by a very small majority. (Vide Journals, House of Assembly, 1856, April 2d, pp. 191, 192.)

That a majority of the House of Assembly should at length have sanctioned the principle set forth in the resolution was, without doubt, satisfactory; but the practical adoption of these principles was postponed for a year, and it was of course competent for the House of Assembly, if they should think fit, to alter or to rescind the resolution. I felt, therefore, that, until the resolution had been acted upon, and the advantages consequent upon such action established by the test of experience, it would be premature for me to regard the question as having been permanently and satisfactorily settled.

I have thought it right to enter into these details, in explanation of the reasons which induced me to defer for a time the announcement that the initiation of money votes had been surrendered to the Government. But I am now enabled to state to your Grace, not only that this most important change in the financial system of the Province has been adopted, but also that the benefits which the public derive from the change are so fully and generally appreciated that there is no longer, in my opinion, the slightest ground for fearing a recurrence to the system of former years.

9. I am aware that in the foregoing remarks I have given but a faint outline of the condition of the Province during the year 1858, but the returns which accompany this despatch furnish the details necessary to complete the picture; and in fact the record

NEW BRUNSWICK.

of the events of 1858 does not present any occurrence, either as regards the commercial or social condition of the Province, of a character so remarkable as to call for special explanation or lengthened observations. But while there are other colonies, the progress of which in population, in commercial prosperity, and in wealth, has been more rapid than that which this Province has of late years exhibited, there can be no doubt either of the extent or value of the resources which New Brunswick possesses in her fertile soil, healthy climate, varied minerals, and in fisheries close to her shores and in her rivers; and these resources are continuously, although perhaps slowly, from the dearth of capital and labour, being developed and turned to good account. Moreover, there is, I am convinced, no portion of the British Empire or in the territories of the United States of which the inhabitants in general have a larger command of the necessaries and cheaper luxuries of life, and I believe that nowhere is a comfortable independence, if not wealth, more certainly the result of honest industry and perseverance.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. H. T. MANNERS SUTTON.

His Grace the Duke of Newcastle,
&c. &c. &c.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

No. 3.

No. 3.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieut.-Governor DUNDAS to his Grace the Duke of NEWCASTLE.

(No. 25.)

Government House, Prince Edward Island,
September 3, 1859.

MY LORD DUKE,

I HAVE the honour herewith to transmit to your Grace in duplicate the "Blue Book" for the year 1858.

As the statistics of this record refer to a period long antecedent to my arrival on this Island, and the assumption by me of its administration, I shall not attach the detailed report which usually accompanies the "Blue Book" of a colony.

In the absence of this report, I beg to enclose, for your Grace's information, a statement, in the form of a letter to myself, prepared at my request by Mr. Henry Haszard, the late Colonial Secretary, who succeeded Mr. George Coles, on the change of government here in April last. This statement contains a brief summary of what is given in greater detail in the "Blue Book."

I have, &c.
GEORGE DUNDAS,
Lieut.-Governor.

His Grace the Duke of Newcastle,
&c. &c. &c.

Encl. in No. 3.

Enclosure in No. 3.

Prince Edward Island, Charlottetown,
August 25, 1859.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith in duplicate the "Blue Book" of this Island for the year 1858, and in doing so I have taken the liberty of offering some explanatory observations on the most prominent points therein.

In the first place I would beg leave to remark, that from the fact of there not having been any statistical return since the year 1855 a great sameness will exist in the Blue Books of 1857 and 1858 in many particulars.

Secondly, in compiling the Blue Book for 1858 many and serious difficulties presented themselves, viz.:—

First, the Blue Book should have been completed by the former incumbent of the office.

Secondly, no returns appear to have been called for by the late Colonial Secretary, as none were found in the office.

Lastly, the limited time allowed for making it up, and the difficulty and apparent reluctance with which many of the officers gave in their returns; nor could returns in many cases be procured at all from them.

I shall now proceed to remark on the different heads in the same order as they stand in the Blue Book, comparing the year 1858 with that of 1857, placing all amounts in sterling.

1. The table of import duties the same as 1857.

2. The table of taxes under statute the same as 1857, but many errors and omissions corrected.

Revenue and Expenditure.

There was a decrease of revenue in 1858, compared with 1857, of 5,442*l.* 13*s.* 5*d.*

There was a decrease of expenditure, compared with 1857, of 3,502*l.* 2*s.* 11*d.*

The decrease of revenue is principally to be accounted for by a decrease in the imports of 1858, as compared with 1857, of 72,499*l.*, and during the same year, compared with 1857, there was an increase in the exports of 18,606*l.*

The decrease in the expenditure of 1858, compared with 1857, is shown in the comparative yearly statements in the Blue Book, in the amounts expended on roads, bridges, wharves, education, agriculture, and the mail service.

Public Debt.

The public debt of the Colony on the 31st January 1859 was 26,565*l.* 0*s.* 1*d.* This amount, compared with the Financial Statement as made up in the Blue Book of 1857 to the 31st January 1858, shows a very striking difference, as by the latter statement there appeared a balance against the Colony only of 161*l.* 15*s.* 2*d.*, credit being taken for—

	£	s.	d.
6,297 acres of Crown lands, at 3*s.* 4*d.* per acre - -	1,049	10	0
45,403 acres of public lands, at 4*s.* per acre - -	9,080	12	0
Bonds for sales of public lands - - - -	516	18	1
Balances due for public lands bearing interest at 5 per cent.	9,484	9	4

Thus, by placing the above amounts to the credit of the Colony, the debt was apparently reduced to the above-named sum of 161*l.* 15*s.* 2*d.*

I have declined taking the lands and securities into account for the following reasons:—

On taking the yearly average receipts and expenditure (as shown in the Blue Book under the head of Public Debt) in connexion with the Crown and public lands since the operation of the Land Purchase Act, I find there has been on an average only the sum of 254*l.* 10*s.* 9*d.* to the credit of the Colony, and this sum is principally derived from the Crown lands. Nor is this average likely to increase, when it is taken into consideration that the best lands, and those most eligible for settlement, have been already disposed of, and the balance unsold is every year diminishing.

Military Posts and Works.

In consequence of the troops having been withdrawn from the Colony in the year 1854, and the removal of the ordnance and nearly all the military stores to Halifax, the Colony has been left in a completely defenceless state, both from within and without, from its exposed position being surrounded by water, and its very limited resources.

Political Franchise.

The general election, held in June 1858, being the first election held under the new Act 19 Vict. Thirty members of Assembly were elected, being an increase of six. The number of persons who recorded their votes was 13,968, being an increase of 3,326 since the election of 1854, or about thirty per cent., thus giving a representative to every 2,500 souls of all ages and sexes, or a representative to every 465 electors. The qualification for members is a freehold or leasehold of the value of 50*l.* or upwards, over and above all just debts.

The elective franchise is all but universal; any male person, being a British subject, between the ages of 21 and 60 years, and who has resided in the town or electoral district for twelve months, and who is liable to perform statute labour, is entitled to vote; any male person, as before, who is in the possession of a freehold, or leasehold of the yearly value of forty shillings, is entitled to vote; any person holding or possessing property in any or all of the electoral districts throughout the Island may vote in any or all of them. The system of simultaneous polling has been successfully adopted.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

Officers of Government.

The Attorney General, the Honourable Joseph Hensley, resigned his seat in the Legislative Council prior to the election in June last, and offered for the representation of the third electoral district of King's County, where he was rejected, and thereupon he resigned his seat in the Executive Council and the office of Attorney General.

The Registrar of Deeds, the Honourable Robert Mooney, was also rejected at the election in June 1858, for the third electoral division of Queen's County, whereupon he also resigned his seat in the Executive, and the office of Registrar of Deeds.

The Honourable Donald Beaton also resigned his seats in the Executive and Legislative Councils.

Ecclesiastical.

The Government of the Colony does not in any way contribute towards the sustentation of any ecclesiastical establishment.

Education.

The system of education under the "Free Education Act" has, by a small tax, placed the means of a common English education within the reach of all, as fully one third of the whole revenue of the Colony is expended on that department. The salary paid to teachers generally being only 33*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*, but quite as much as the present resources of the Colony will admit of, it necessarily follows that the attainments of the teachers are not as good as could be wished. It is also desirable that the character of the present Academy should be raised to that of a Collegiate School, as that institution has retrograded instead of having advanced.

Paper Currency.

The estimated amount of paper currency in circulation during the year 1858, compared with 1857, is less by 53,933*l.*, the principal difference being in the estimated amount of the notes in circulation of the British North American colonies, being 45,000*l.*, there can be no doubt that the estimate for 1857 was far in excess, and it is more than probable that the estimate for 1858 rather exceeds than otherwise the actual amount in circulation. The remaining sum is mostly made up by the difference in the amount of bank paper in circulation.

Agriculture.

There not having been any statistical return since the year 1855, the Blue Book of 1858 under this head is the same as that of 1857; but I may remark, that agriculture and the breeding and importation of improved stock are making rapid progress, and have been a good deal fostered by the legislature, and it cannot be doubted that the largest quantity of produce ever returned to the agriculturists in the Colony was that of 1858.

Fisheries.

This branch of business was prosecuted with more energy and success during the year 1858 than formerly. It has been carried on principally by Americans who have settled in the Colony.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

I have, &c.

His Excellency George Dundas, Esq., &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) H. HASZARD.

NEWFOUNDLAND.

No. 4.

COPY of DESPATCH from Governor Sir A. BANNERMAN to his Grace the Duke of NEWCASTLE.

(No. 73.)

MY LORD DUKE, Government House, Newfoundland, September 26, 1859.

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith the annual "Blue Book" for this colony. I do not think it necessary at present to offer any further observations relative to Newfoundland, further than that the inhabitants for the last year have been contented, and that the fisheries comparatively have been an average.

2. Cod fish, seal oil, cod oil, and seal skins are the staple produce, and it is satisfactory to find that the exported values of these articles have been progressively increasing, as well as the imports and tonnage.

3. On an average for the last seven years I find the value of

Cod fish exported, was - - -	£723,980
Value of Cod and Seal Oil - - -	377,410
Seal Skins - - - - -	82,047
	£1,183,437

This is exclusive of the produce exported from the Labrador and St. George's Bay, which cannot be estimated at less than 325,000*l.*, and all this large value is the produce of the sea adjoining the coast of this island.

4. Although Labrador is a Dependency of Newfoundland, there are no custom houses there, and, consequently, British and American subjects who prosecute the fishery pay nothing on dutiable articles. This is a strange anomaly, which requires correction; the British residents there say there can be no taxation without representation. I see no objection to their being represented in the Legislature, and a few magistrates be settled there; but this, and many other things will require time, and the consideration of the Legislature to be placed on a proper and equitable footing, when the fishery question is settled.

5. It is well known that Her Majesty's Government recently appointed a mixed commission to inquire into the practice which has prevailed here relative to existing treaties, the French Government having intimated that they were anxious to abide by these treaties, to which Her Majesty's Government had no objection, and proposed that a mixed commission should be appointed, two from each nation, to which the Government of France acceded, and, on their part, named the Marquis de Montaignac and Count Gobineau, while Captain Dunlop, of H.M.S. "Tartar," senior officer on this station, and the Honourable Mr. Kent, the Colonial Secretary here, were named on the part of the British Government. These commissioners terminated their labours the other day. I am not aware of the evidence which they have got, or the conclusions they have arrived at; but I trust the result will be such as to enable Her Majesty's Government to bring this question to an amicable and satisfactory settlement, finally and for ever, which, if accomplished, cannot fail to promote the interests of all classes in Newfoundland.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. BANNERMAN.

His Grace the Duke of Newcastle,
&c. &c. &c.

BERMUDA.

No. 5.

BERMUDA.

No. 5.

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Officer administering the Government to the UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE.

(No. 70.)

MY LORD, Bermuda, 12th July 1859.

I HEREWITH have the honour to forward to the Secretary of State for the Colonies the Blue Book for the year 1858.

The circumstance of my having only within the last few weeks assumed the Government of these Islands will, I trust, be accepted as a sufficient excuse for not offering any remarks thereon.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. S. HEMPHILL,
Acting Governor and Commander-in-Chief.

To the Under Secretary of State,
&c. &c.

AFRICAN SETTLEMENTS AND ST. HELENA.

SIERRA LEONE.

No. 6.

SIERRA LEONE.

No. 6.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor HILL to the Right Honourable Sir EDWARD BULWER LYTTON, Bart.

(No. 53.)

Government House, Sierra Leone,
16th April 1859.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit the first copy of the Blue Book of this Colony for the year ended 31st December 1858.

I have, &c.
(Signed) STEPHEN J. HILL,
Governor.

To the Right Hon. Sir E. B. Lytton, Bart.
&c. &c. &c.

GAMBIA.

No. 7.

GAMBIA.

No. 7.

COPY of DESPATCH from Governor O'CONNOR to the Right Hon. Sir EDWARD BULWER LYTTON, Bart.

(No. 24.)

Government House, Bathurst, Gambia,
13th April 1859.

SIR,

I DO myself the honour to transmit the Blue Book of this colony for the year 1858.

2. I have dwelt so fully in six preceding "Annual Reports," touching the statistics, resources, internal economy, and minute details of "Her Majesty's Settlements in the River Gambia," that slender material remains for a Despatch save a brief summary of last year's proceedings.

3. The favourable prognostications I have ventured to offer from year to year, since 1853, of a steady progressive increase in the commerce of these settlements, and the proportionate prosperity of the revenue, have proved not vain or visionary speculations, but sound and legitimate observations, confirmed by practical results. (*Vide* Table No. 1.)

4. From the above table it appears the total revenue for four years amounted to 65,081*l.* 19*s.* 10*d.*, or an average yearly revenue of 16,270*l.* 9*s.* 11½*d.*

5. Deducting the receipts in aid of the general revenue from 1855 to 1858, 16,446*l.* 6*s.* from the gross amount, a colonial revenue of 48,635*l.* 13*s.* 10*d.* remains for four years, or 21,144*l.* over and above the colonial revenue for the same number of years, from 1848 to 1851.

6. Nor has the opening of 1859 dawned less auspiciously. The quarter ended 31st March gave a general revenue of 5,463*l.* 4*s.* 11*d.*; true, the first quarter embraces the "Annual Licences," but deducting these (717*l.*), and also "Receipts in Aid of the Revenue," 1,557*l.* 19*s.* 4*d.*, a creditable balance is left in favour of the colonial revenue the return of the colonial treasurer showing 3,625*l.* 13*s.* 5*d.* remaining in the chest.

7. The commercial world at large, and especially the several branches connected with France and the United States, were sorely tried, and the stability of their firms severely tested in the monetary crisis of 1857.

8. Considering that the shipping interests of France with Gambia numbers 12,422 tons, or nearly double the tonnage from Great Britain, and that the United States furnish 3,729 tons, or equal to two thirds from the mother country, a very large and widely diffused amount of commercial property is necessarily at stake in the two foreign countries.

Still the Gambia merchants resolutely and successfully weathered the storm, and the revenue of the panic season was equal to the preceding years.

9. I cherish the hope that the same bright propects are still in store, and will be fully realized by the speculative, energetic, enterprising merchants of "Her Majesty's Settlements on the River Gambia."

10. The second Table exhibits the several salaries drawn from the Imperial Treasury in 1853 and in 1858, amounting in the former year to 3,330*l.* 15*s.* 10*d.*, decreasing in the latter to 2,230*l.* 15*s.* 10*d.*, or 1,100*l.* in favour of the Imperial Treasury. (*Vide* Table No. 2.)

11. The third Table is a return of the civil and other establishments, paid from the colonial treasury of the Gambia in 1858. (*Vide* Table No. 3.)

12. The sum of 7,154*l.* 12*s.* 8*d.* is a large amount to draw from the chest of a colony that, ten years before, had only 5,391*l.* for its total revenue; and therefore I may be permitted to freely and unreservedly reiterate, sound practical proofs are afforded of progressive prosperity.

13. The staff of Gambia is equal to, but not one jot more for, the important and onerous duties demanded from every member of it.

14. The salaries, far less than those of the sister colonies, are by no means commensurate to the responsible position, the wear and tear of mind and body, the dangers to be encountered, the maladies engendered in the baneful, if not fatal—I speak from seven years' experience—debilitating climate of Gambia.

15. It is not sufficient for a public officer to maintain the character, caste, and responsibility of the appointment a gracious Queen has been pleased to confer upon him; he must recollect his life is fleeting, and that a premature old age may shatter his frame and enervate his energies.

16. Nor is the amount of work to be taken out (to use a homely expression) of a colonial officer's physical powers, exiled from home, country, friends,—in common justice, in common charity, he ought to receive a stipend, not barely enough to eke out existence, but sufficient to enable him, by prudence and economy, to secure some slender provision, when driven by bitter necessity, or stimulated by an honourable zeal, he may be compelled to continue labouring at the very hazard of his existence, or relinquish, for a life of indigence and bodily suffering, an appointment his failing and exhausted powers no longer permit him to retain.

17. I stated in my report on the Blue Book for last year that the rapid increase of the "Ground-nut Trade" had, in a great measure, redeemed Gambia from the almost unprecedented loss sustained by the falling off in the exportation of four important articles, gold, gum, ivory, and teak-wood, diminishing in five years from 45,229*l.* to 12,860*l.*

18. The following Table will shew that the exportation of ground-nuts (*vide* Table No. 4) has advanced 50 per cent. in the last three years, or from 10,868 tons, value 130,496*l.*, in 1856, to 15,705 tons, value 188,464*l.*, in 1858.

19. Table No. 5 is a comparative return of patients treated in the "Victoria" Hospital from 1855 to 1858, inclusive. (*Vide* Table No. 5.)

20. No public building is of more consequence to a community (essentially so in a tropical climate) than a well-constructed, economically-organized hospital.

21. Six hundred patients were treated within four years in the public hospital of Bathurst; a large number, considering the resident population and the peculiar habits of the "Africans," who infinitely prefer suffocating huts, native quacks, and country medicines to well-ventilated wards, a college of physicians, and the most elaborate pharmacopæia Europe could supply.

22. The "Albert" market returned 575*l.* 6*s.* dues in the year 1858, and may be said to afford a tolerable supply for the common wants of life at reasonable terms. Beef at 4*d.* a pound; pork, 5*d.* to 6*d.*; mutton, 6*d.* to 8*d.*; small poultry 6*s.*, large 10*s.* to 20*s.*, ducks 18*s.* to 24*s.* a dozen; turkies, 14*s.* to 28*s.* each.

23. The cultivation of vegetables has gradually increased, and cabbages, turnips, salads, radishes, beet, pumpkins, with various other garden stuffs, are easily procured at moderate prices, considering the great difficulty to be encountered from soil, climate, and the destructive burning "harmattan" or desert winds.

24. A new fish shed is just completed, much to the satisfaction of a numerous class (the lower order) of inhabitants, as fish, with rice, corn, kus-kus, constitute their principal article of sustenance.

25. The fish shed, measuring 83 feet in length by 23 feet 6 inches in breadth and 18 feet in height, under the ridge beam, is formed by a shingle roof supported on twenty neat iron pillars, open all round, and exposed to a free circulation of air.

GAMBIA.

26. Slate slabs, raised on wooden tressels, three feet from an asphalted flooring, regularly cleaned and washed, ensure the fish being preserved fresh and wholesome for use.

27. An active and intelligent clerk of the market collects the dues, regulates the sittings, and, with two constables, preserves order and discipline among the crowd of venders and buyers—a task of no little responsibility, considering both parties came from various districts, many of uncouth, almost uncivilized tribes; yet even the latter, "the Jolahs," a wild savage race, the sellers of palm wine, furnished by their industry an item to the colonial revenue of 733*l.* 10*s.* 9*d.* duty on palm wine in 1858.

28. And now, in concluding my Report upon Her Majesty's Settlements in the River Gambia, it appears to me, after upwards of six years' government of that interesting and rising colony, having made many expeditions up several rivers to various islands, and among tribes hitherto unvisited by, nay almost unknown to, Europeans, it appears to me that the sound sterling policy of the British Government, its high and holy calling, is, not to seek an undue increase of revenue, and extend protection to a few European residents and a scanty population living under its flag at Gambia, but to diffuse freely, fully, unrestrictedly, far and wide, agriculture, commerce, civilization, religion, peace, and good-will among tribes, countries, nations, in which the British monarchy and the British people have so long exhibited a profound interest, and unflinchingly, untiringly struggled, regardless of the unlimited expenditure of treasure and, far more valuable, the vast sacrifice of gallant lives, to redeem millions of our fellow beings from centuries of moral bondage, and rescue them from the cloud of mental darkness which, for some great and wise purpose, still so mysteriously hovers over them.

1854.—River Gambia; Falls of Barconda; Isle of Matacong; Western Coast, Africa; "Boor Salum;" Upper and Lower Combo.

1855.—Western Coast of Africa; Rio Jeba; Bissao; Isle of Bulama; Bijuga Islands*; Kanaback; Rio Nunez; Rio Cazamances; Boor Sin; Joal; Falls of Barraconda.

1857.—River Gambia; Bijugas; Orango Isle*; Rio Grande; Kittafiny River; Western Coast of Africa.

1858.—Falls of Barraconda; Vintain and Sanding Creeks.

I have, &c.

L. SMYTH O'CONNOR,

Governor.

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* N.B.—The Bijuga Islands of "Kanaback" and "Orango" are inhabited by a wild, ferocious race, said to be sprung from the terrible "Jiages" or "Jagas." The last island had never been visited by Europeans, or the channel surveyed, until my expedition in 1857. The River Kittafiny was also quite unknown.

No. 1.—COMPARATIVE RETURNS of the Ordinary Revenue and Expenditure for the Years from 1855 to 1858 inclusive.

REVENUE.

—	1855.			1856.			1857.			1858.		
CUSTOMS.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Duties on Goods imported in British Ships.	1,761	7	5	2,280	7	3	2,084	5	6	2,459	4	6
Do. Foreign do.	1,174	4	1	1,144	8	5	1,123	7	6	1,069	7	3
Extra Duty on Wines and Spirits	2,513	18	0	2,960	11	9	2,155	10	8	1,411	1	1
Do. Tobacco	515	2	1	500	4	11	484	14	1	422	10	0
Additional Extra do. on Spirits	54	15	0	453	3	0	356	12	5	366	17	6
Do. Tobacco	128	9	9	500	6	2	484	14	2	422	10	0
Pilotage	570	0	0	547	15	0	612	0	0	629	15	0
Tonnage Dues	1,176	16	0	1,068	19	0	1,377	15	0	1,496	7	0
Additional Tonnage Dues	689	16	3	672	0	9	788	5	0	791	19	6
Quarantine Dues	183	15	0	138	12	0	171	2	0	171	3	0
Palm Wine Duty	535	17	2	397	9	0	554	2	9	723	10	9
Auction Duty	28	10	9	9	12	9	17	13	10	112	6	1
Seizures, Crown's Share of	14	6	11	3	2	6	13	3	4	—		
Surcharges		10	0	6	0	0		1	0	—		
Fines, &c.	-	-	-		6	8	—			—		
LICENCES.												
Sale of Spirits, &c. wholesale	460	0	0	30	0	0	60	0	0	40	0	0
Do. retail				600	0	0	600	0	0	540	0	0
Do. McCarthy' Island	30	0	0	30	0	0	30	0	0	30	0	0
Auctioneers	25	0	0	25	0	0	25	0	0	25	0	0
Hawkers	6	0	0	10	0	0	5	0	0	1	0	0
Butchers	12	0	0	—			—			—		
RENTS, exclusive of LANDS.												
Market Dues, Bathurst	162	4	7	550	17	11	532	6	3	575	6	0
Do. McCarthy's Island	8	12	10	7	4	9	21	6	0	40	10	7
Oyster Creek Ferry Tolls	106	8	2	85	2	10	47	7	10	—		
Fines, Forfeitures, &c.	223	2	7	158	17	9	166	11	3	180	5	7
Fees of Office	13	1	5	16	8	1	6	17	5	3	3	6
Quit Rents	123	7	6	107	12	6	163	5	0	118	2	6
Miscellaneous Receipts	400	4	11	79	1	1	5	11	8	89	9	3
Sale of Government Property	5	6	2	26	9	0	17	14	6	14	11	9
Government Steamer	262	9	2	357	19	3	319	13	3	372	3	9
Receipts in Aid of Revenue	4,061	4	3	4,548	10	1	4,105	15	10	3,730	15	10
Reimbursements in Aid	108	7	4	58	2	10	104	16	7	80	8	0
Totals	15,352	17	4	17,374	5	3	16,434	8	10	15,920	8	5

EXPENDITURE.

—	1855.			1856.			1857.			1858.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Salaries Fixed Establishment	7,690	2	6	7,819	16	10½	8,010	14	10	8,248	0	5
Do. Provisional and Temporary	1,530	3	0	1,131	8	1½	1,553	14	7	1,885	6	6
Allowances	482	17	9	421	19	10	461	6	0	460	4	1
Office Contingencies	225	5	10	236	6	10	275	7	3	190	11	10
Total Establishments	9,928	9	1	9,609	11	8	10,301	2	8	10,784	2	10
Pensions, Gratuities, &c.	4	0	0	188	17	5	584	10	0	188	5	3
Revenue Services, exclusive of Establishment.	288	5	5	134	0	3	395	0	8	43	10	5
Administration of Justice do.	91	3	2	111	17	6	76	5	0	38	18	4
Charitable Allowances		16	9	8	11	7	17	10	6	6	0	0
Education exclusive of Establishment	100	0	0	100	0	0	100	0	0	100	0	0
Hospitals do.	274	7	10	86	11	2	201	18	2	145	17	10
Police and Gaols do.	484	9	1	304	7	1	443	11	0	473	7	3
Rent	305	14	0	259	4	0	315	4	0	409	4	0
Transport	83	18	3	1	7	6	34	8	0	—		
Works and Buildings	1,376	3	3	1,321	16	7	1,703	17	11	311	3	9
Roads, Streets, and Bridges	255	19	11	53	14	0	206	16	7	451	5	9
Miscellaneous Services	6	6	3	62	16	11	30	17	3	24	8	7
Government Vessels exclusive of Establishment.	1,135	10	5	896	17	8	1,375	11	11	1,553	2	10
Aborigines	429	7	5	517	18	7	523	11	11	465	5	9
Drawbacks and Refunds	67	5	3	179	2	10	386	7	0	80	0	1
Special Services	439	0	6	260	12	7	1,040	17	10	472	1	3
Totals	15,270	16	7	14,097	7	4	17,737	10	5	15,546	13	11

GAMBIA.

No. 2.—RETURN of Civil and other Establishments at Gambia paid from the Imperial Treasury in 1853.

Establishments.	Salaries paid from the Imperial Treasury.	Allowances paid by the Colony.	Total.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Governor	1,000 0 0	200 0 0	1,200 0 0
Chief Justice	800 0 0	—	800 0 0
Colonial Secretary	600 0 0	—	600 0 0
Queen's Advocate	400 0 0	—	400 0 0
Colonial Chaplin	400 0 0	41 1 3	441 1 3
Commander McCarthy's Island	130 15 10	—	130 15 10
Totals £	3,330 15 10	241 1 3	3,571 17 1

RETURN of Civil and other Establishments at Gambia paid from the Imperial Treasury in 1858.

Establishments.	Salaries paid from the Imperial Treasury.	Allowances paid by the Colony.	Total.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Governor	1,000 0 0	200 0 0	1,200 0 0
Chief Justice	800 0 0	—	800 0 0
Colonial Secretary	300 0 0	—	300 0 0
Queen's Advocate	—	—	—
Colonian Chaplain	—	41 1 3	41 1 3
Commander McCarthy's Island	130 15 10	—	130 15 10
Totals	2,230 15 10	241 1 3	2,471 17 1

Total Salaries paid from Imperial Treasury 1853	3,330 15 10
do. do. do. 1858	2,230 15 10
Decrease in Payments from Imperial Treasury	1,100 0 0

No. 3.—RETURN of the Civil and other Establishments paid from the Colonial Treasury of Gambia in 1858.

Establishments.	Salaries.	Allowances.	Total.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Governor	—	200 0 0	200 0 0
Colonial Secretary	806 19 0	—	806 19 0
Clerk of Councils	100 0 0	—	100 0 0
Colonial Engineer	498 5 0	41 1 3	539 6 3
Collector of Customs	1,038 6 1	33 15 4	1,072 1 5
Ferries	76 16 0	—	76 16 0
Pilotage	343 14 6	—	343 14 6
Clerk of Market	111 5 0	—	111 5 0
Superintendent of Quarantine	40 19 6	—	40 19 6
Registrar of Births, Deaths, &c.	50 0 0	—	50 0 0
Colonial Auditor	200 0 0	—	200 0 0
Collector of Rates	40 0 0	—	40 0 0
Judicial Establishment	567 4 0	—	567 4 0
Ecclesiastical do.	425 0 0	41 1 3	466 1 3
Medical do.	741 5 0	41 1 3	782 6 3
Police and Gaols	1,386 19 6	—	1,386 19 6
Commander McCarthy's Island	10 0 0	—	10 0 0
Resident Magistrate, Combo	100 0 0	—	100 0 0
Agent General	40 0 0	—	40 0 0
Postmaster	60 0 0	—	60 0 0
Militia	161 0 0	—	161 0 0
otals	6,797 13 7	356 19 1	7,154 12 8

No. 4.—RETURN of Ground Nuts exported from Bathurst, Gambia, 1856 to 1858 inclusive.

YEAR.	Great Britain.	France.	United States.	Goree and Senegal.	British West Indies.	Total.	Amount Sterling.
	Tons cwt. qr. lbs.	Tons cwt. qr. lbs.	Tons cwt. qr. lbs.	Tons cwt. qr. lbs.	Tons cwt. qr. lbs.	Tons cwt. qr. lbs.	£ s. d.
1856	238 6 1 0	9,456 8 0 0	832 10 0 0	338 9 3 0	Nil.	*10,865 14 0 0	130,496 8 0
1857	869 5 1 0	11,098 16 3 14 100 0 0 0	1,269 5 2 0 37 10 0 0	135 16 1 0	43 8 3 0	13,554 2 2 14	162,649 11 6
1858	1,516 18 3 0	13,122 17 2 14	628 18 0 14	361 13 3 0	75 0 0 0	15,705 8 1 0	188,464 19 0
Totals	2,624 10 1 0	33,778 2 2 0	2,768 3 2 14	835 18 7 0	118 8 3 0	40,125 4 3 14	481,610 18 6

* Memo.—1856. Nine tons exported to Cape de Verds not included.

No. 5—COMPARATIVE RETURN of the Number of Sick treated in the Colonial Hospital, Bathurst, from 1st January 1855 to the 31st December 1858 inclusive.

YEARS.	Remained from each Year.	Admitted.			Total treated.	Discharged.	Died.			Remained in hospital at end of year.	Proportion of Deaths to Diseases.			Per-centage.			REMARKS.
		Whites.	Blacks.	Paupers.			Whites.	Blacks.	Paupers.		Whites.	Blacks.	Paupers.	Whites.	Blacks.	Paupers.	
1855	—	159	*15	47	221	200	9	3	6	3	1 in 18	1 in 5	1 in 8	5	20	12	*Many wounded in the Combo War included in this total.
1856	3	66	10	36	112	92	3	—	14	3	1 in 22	—	1 in 3	4½	—	33	
1857	3	114	5	†33	152	135	4	—	12	1	1 in 28	—	1 in 3	3½	—	33	†Many old and exhausted by disease coming to hospital in the last stage for treatment.
1858	1	71	3	39	113	98	4	—	7	4	1 in 18	—	1 in 6	5	—	18	
		410	33	155	598	525	20	3	39	11							

Bathurst, Gambia, 7th March 1859.

(Signed) P. KIRTON, Col. Surgeon.

Gold Coast.

GOLD COAST.

No. 8 .

Copy of DESPATCH from Acting Governor Bird to the Right Hon. Sir E. B. Lytton, Bart.

No. 8.

(No. 43.)

Sir, Cape Coast Castle, Gold Coast, July 11, 1859.

I have the honour to forward the Blue Book for 1858, and I trust the state and prospects of these Settlements as shown therein will be satisfactory to Her Majesty's Government.

Enclosure No. 1.

2. I beg to call your attention to the Colonial Surgeon's report, which has evidently been drawn up with great care and attention by Dr. Clarke, and reflects considerable credit upon that officer. Dr. Clarke has shown how groundless has been the opinion formerly so obstinately maintained that the people of the Gold Coast were quite insensible to the great advantages to be derived from European methods of medical treatment, that they could not be prevailed upon to enter an hospital for medical treatment, and that when it became absolutely necessary that they would not submit to capital operations, even to save their lives. These assertions I consider have been amply refuted, and it is to be hoped are for ever dispelled, for it will be observed, by reference to the Return marked 3, annexed to the Report, that 25 persons voluntarily sought admission to the hospital; and its incorrectness is still further evidenced by the fact that fifty persons have been treated in the Colonial Hospital in the first half-yearly period of the present year, the majority of whom came in of their own accord. With regard to their alleged refusal to submit to operations, I may mention that four persons have had their limbs successfully removed since Dr. Clarke's arrival on this part of the coast. It cannot, however, be denied that it will be a work of time to overcome entirely the scruples and prejudices of the natives to be treated in hospital, but in reality their aversion is not a whit greater than is manifested by the ignorant population of many parts of the United Kingdom.

3. The observations regarding guinea worm, and the native methods of curing dysentery and snake bites, are interesting, and appear valuable.

While examining the remedies used by the native practitioners, Dr. Clarke has discovered that a plant called Etua, and which has been employed for centuries by the natives of these settlements in dysentery, is nearly allied, if not identical, with the Bael or Bela of India. The appearance of the Etua plant is accurately represented in the accompanying drawings which Mrs. Clarke has kindly made. A preparation of the Bael or Bela has lately been introduced into Europe as a remedy for dysentery. I observe in a pamphlet written by Dr. Adolphus of London, that the Bela has been used by the Hindoos as a specific for that disease from time immemorial. The Etua should be viewed as a pledge of the many unknown and valuable products of the soil of these settlements, and I hope will eventually become an article of export.

4. Education is making slow but steady progress. In every country it is a work of time, but amongst barbarians it is the toil of generations. I concur fully with the Rev. W. West, the Wesleyan General Superintendent in these settlements, "That

Enclosure No. 2.

"education will never be appreciated by the natives of the interior until it is imparted "in their own language." The Basel missionaries in the eastern districts have long since been persuaded of this fact, and have rendered invaluable service to the cause of civilization and Christianity on this coast in having reduced the Otshy and Gâ languages to writing. Outlines and vocabularies of both languages have been published in English; a primer and a hymn-book, as well as translations of Barth's Bible stories, the history of the passion of our Lord, and the four Gospels, have been printed in the Gâ and a translation of Barth's Bible stories in the Otshy. By the returns furnished by the Rev. Chas. W. Locher, it appears the society has stations at Christiansborg, Abokobi, Akropong, Abude, Krobo, and Akim, with several out-stations. I transmit herewith a map of the eastern districts, which the society has had published, and on it you will observe the relative position of their several stations. Mr. Locher remarks, "The "children of our schools are, with few exceptions, Christian children. Our principle is

" to teach them first their own native language, in which parts of the Holy Scriptures " and several schoolbooks are already printed or under the press. Those children who " have acquired a thorough knowledge of their mother tongue are taught the English " language. The catechist training school contains 22 youths of from 16 to 24 years. " They are taught, in the course of four to five years, so as to be able to serve as " catechists and schoolmasters, and after they have proved by a steady life to be fit for " a higher order, they are instructed in Hebrew, Greek, and Theology, and ordained " as native ministers. The census of this year, 1858, shows the following number of " European labourers :—

" 6 married ordained missionaries - - -	12	persons.
" 4 unmarried do. do. - - -	4	"
" 3 married, " 5 unmarried } lay brethren - - -	6	"
	5	"
" 3 unmarried ladies - - . - -	3	"
" Total of Europeans - -	30	persons,

" with the yearly expenditure of 4,000*l.* to 5,000*l.* sterling."

5. There are Government schools at this station, Anamaboe, Amantin, Appollonia, Commenda, Dixcove, and Donassie, which are attended, as the returns in the Blue Books will show, by 318 male and 49 female children. In a former despatch I have pointed out how imperfectly those schools are conducted, and the necessity of having a properly qualified teacher to train up a certain number of native youths as instructors. The colonial chaplain remarks, that, " About the age of 15 the boys are tolerably well " qualified to become under clerks in the merchant stores, and they are generally desirous " of obtaining such employment, with a view of engaging in trade themselves. Industrial " schools would be an important object, for the instruction of some portion of them in " agriculture, and of others in mechanics, but no such establishments exist here, with the " exception of the cultivated ground belonging to the Wesleyans at Beulah ; nor is there " a library or reading-room in any of the towns, where youths might carry on mental " improvement. A bookseller's shop is not to be met with on the coast, and even the " commonest articles of stationery are sometimes not to be purchased. The government, " however, take in a few copies of useful periodicals, both of secular intelligence as well " as of a moral tendency, and any respectable parties can have the advantage of perusing " them, by applying either to the chaplain or to the respective commandants, to whose " charge he forwards the works, monthly, for this purpose. The several teachers in the " out-stations send in quarterly returns of the numbers of their scholars, of the routine of " their work in school, and also of such books as the teachers themselves have been " occupied in reading. The commandants are requested to visit the schools from time " to time within their district."

6. More attention has been paid to agricultural pursuits in this than in former years. The Indian corn has been grown as an article of export, and one or two cargoes of it have been shipped to Europe.

7. The Agricultural Society has been endeavouring to attract the attention of the natives to the advantages they would derive from cultivating the cotton plant, and hopes are entertained of the fibre becoming ere long classed amongst the exports of these settlements.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. BIRD,
Acting Governor.

The Right Hon. Sir E. B. Lytton, Bart.
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure No. 1.

Encl. No. 1.

Dr. CLARKE to Acting Colonial Secretary R. D. Ross, Esq.

Medical Report for the year 1858.

SIR, Colonial Hospital, Cape Coast, May 10, 1859.

IN submitting the annual Medical Reports of the Colonial Hospital of Cape Coast for the information of his Excellency the Acting Governor, I have ventured to make a few remarks upon subjects of a kindred nature having a direct bearing upon the public health.

2. His Excellency will perceive, by referring to the Returns severally annexed, marked 1, 2, 3, 4, that forty-seven persons were treated in the Colonial Hospital last year; and although I am sensible that that number may appear small, it nevertheless is an encouraging fact, because it shows an increase to the extent of three fourths compared with the number of sick under medical treatment in 1857. It is

(1.)
(2.)
(3.)
(4.)

GOLD COAST.

also noteworthy that a fraction more than half of the whole number of the sick treated voluntarily sought admission to the hospital, the remainder being either debtors, refugee slaves, or convicts, as will be seen by examining the annexed Return, marked 3.

(3.)

(1.)

3. An analysis of the yearly Medical Return marked 1 shows forty recoveries and two deaths; but it is proper to state that one man left the hospital before recovery took place, and that one of the refugee slaves escaped therefrom. The majority of the diseases which were treated in the period in question rank under the head of phlegmons, ulcers, and wounds, with affections of uncertain and variable seats. Several of the wounds were severe and dangerous: A boy about ten years of age sustained a punctured wound of the belly, with protrusion of the omentum, by falling from a tree upon a stake. In another instance a child two and a half years of age had the left radial artery wounded near the wrist by falling upon broken glass. In this case the hæmorrhage was repressed with some difficulty; but I am glad to state that the little fellow made a good recovery.

Among the minor operations I may mention, that a large slug deeply imbedded was removed from the external and upper third of the left leg of a man who had been shot three years ago in the riots which then occurred at Cape Coast. A tumour was also removed from between the breasts of a young woman. The diseased structure had originally been a cicatrix raised on the skin by way of ornament. Several young females also applied to have fibro steatomatous growths of one or both lobules of the ear removed; and in all these cases I took away both lobule and tumour. These tumours had been caused by the chronic irritation set up in the lobules by piercing them for the introduction of earrings. Many persons suffering from dry gangrene of the little toe came to the hospital to be operated upon. Dry gangrene, especially of the little toe, I have observed is a disease of rather common occurrence among the natives of the Gold Coast, and from inquiries I have made on the subject I find that it is frequently a sequence of suppressed yaws.

With respect to more important operations, I removed the left leg of a man sent to the hospital from Anamaboe suffering from a compound fracture of the tibia and fibula about the middle third; and I take this opportunity of repeating my conviction that the natives of the Gold Coast do not display more repugnance to submit to operations than people do elsewhere.

4. I regret to state that the means at present of accommodating the sick in hospital is very limited, as will be observed by the annexed Table marked 5, which exhibits the dimensions, cubical contents, means of ventilation, and the proportion of persons each of the wards is capable of accommodating.

(5.)

These calculations are based upon the proposition that upwards of 600 cubic feet of pure air is required to maintain the healthy composition of the blood. This is, however, assuming the lowest standard, as not less than 1,000 cubic feet of air has been recommended by the Inspectors of Prisons in England as essential to health and ventilation. Admitting that the minimum quantity is sufficient, I regret to state that for short periods during the year there was an excess of sick in some of the hospital wards, a circumstance which must occasionally happen until a more suitable and commodious building is provided. The male ward on the basement floor is in reality a large cellar, and the female ward is small, and very indifferently adapted for that purpose. The rest of the basement floor is used as a dispensary, a medical store, a female schoolroom, and a female prison; while the second floor is occupied as my quarters, with the exception of an office and small ward for the reception of Europeans.

Under these circumstances I respectfully contend that the design of establishing a well-regulated civil hospital is an impossibility; and I therefore beg to suggest that the whole of the present building be used as an hospital, or, if that cannot be done, that a suitable house be elsewhere obtained until an hospital can be built. Impressed with the great importance of organizing an hospital, I would be guilty of a dereliction of duty if I did not exert every means in my power to attain this most desirable object, not only on humane grounds, but as a powerful means of dispelling the lamentable ignorance which leads the people of this country, when afflicted with disease, to have recourse to the barbarous and debasing influence of the fetish. And I maintain that the establishment of such an institution would exert upon the native mind a most civilizing influence, by showing them the paramount importance which a beneficent government attaches to the preservation of human life, and the alleviation of suffering, on a coast hitherto proverbially remarkable for an utter recklessness on those points. Even viewed on the lowest grounds, I feel satisfied that the principals of the chief trading houses in England, the United and other foreign States, would hail with the greatest satisfaction its organization, and it would assuredly attract shipping to this port, and would correspondingly increase its commercial importance, besides being in strict accord with the long cherished and earnest wish of the Imperial Government, and the recommendation of Commissioner Ord, that civil hospitals should be established under civil medical officers at Cape Coast and at Accra, where native youths could be instructed in the practice of medicine.

Notwithstanding all the imperfections of the Colonial Hospital in its present condition, it has proved of great benefit to the population, and most serviceable to the government, inasmuch as there is not the means of treating sick debtors, refugee slaves, or convicts, either in the gaol of Fort William or Castle Prison, the former being, moreover, half a mile beyond the immediate reach of medical assistance, and it has always been at all times accessible for the admission of debtors and convicts confined in the municipal prison.

5. I am glad to be able to state that in the period comprehended in this Report no epidemic has prevailed. Rumours were current at different times during the year of the appearance of smallpox at various stations, but these statements were greatly exaggerated, and in most instances unfounded. At least I saw no case of smallpox during the year, and I feel satisfied that I should have detected such cases, notwithstanding that the natives do everything in their power to conceal its presence by the immediate removal of the afflicted persons into the bush. I may here mention the remarkable fact, that few persons among the population whom I have had ample opportunities of observing in different parts of the protected territory are marked with smallpox. With regard to vaccination, I regret to state that it failed in every instance in which it was repeatedly tried both by myself and several of the military medical officers. This circumstance in no way weakens my firm belief that vaccination will succeed

on the Gold Coast, for there is unquestionable living evidence of its having formerly succeeded well. At Sierra Leone I have known it fail in hundreds of instances, but ultimately succeed well, and be kept up for many months at a time; and assuredly a similar result will happen in these settlements if the medical officers, instead of being disheartened by repeated failures, are incited to renewed efforts to introduce this inestimable blessing among the natives of the Gold Coast. That nothing may be wanting to secure this object, I beg to suggest that no pains should be spared in charging to the utmost the bone points with lymph which are sent out to this part of the coast, as I feel convinced attention to this apparently trivial circumstance will largely contribute to the success of vaccination here.

6. I now beg to refer to the annexed numerical Return, marked 6, which shows the number of persons who applied for and obtained medical assistance in each month of the year at the dispensary; but lest an erroneous impression might be entertained that the aggregate number noted in this Return represents different and distinct sick persons, I deem it my duty to explain, that the total number is the whole number of applicants in that period as it would be a work of labour and considerable difficulty to distinguish accurately the number of new applicants from those who have been treated for several days consecutively. Several of those treated in the hospital during the year had in the first instance been applicants at the dispensary. A large proportion of those who attended were affected with old standing scrofulous ulcerations of the skin, and these persons had their sores daily dressed, while in several cases their ulcers were caused by caries of the bones, and the reparative process consequently required weeks, sometimes months, for its completion, and not unfrequently they no sooner healed up than they broke out afresh. A very large number of those prescribed for suffered from the most inveterate skin diseases. Scabies, called kra kra on this coast, is a common disease, and is very infectious. It is frequent among children, and the slave population are seldom without it, the disease being induced by the poverty of their diet, bad ventilation, and their dirty habits, but nevertheless they do not appear to be much inconvenienced by it. The poorer class of people and slaves also suffer much from framboesia or yaws. Persons affected with psoriasis palmaria came occasionally under treatment, and a great many afflicted with herpetic eruptions situated on various parts of the body were constant applicants for relief. In the worst and most intractable forms of skin diseases which I was called upon to treat among the natives I found the solution of the arsenite of potass, by far the most useful medicine. Very many of the applicants suffered from griping pains in the bowels, and considerable numbers from diarrhœa and dysentery.

In former reports I have remarked that the natives are very liable to constipation, consequently there were numerous and constant applications for purgative medicines to obviate this unpleasant condition. Crowds of persons of both sexes may be seen upon the beach at early morn with various medicated decoctions which they blow into the bowels from a bottle-shaped calabash in order to obtain relief. This constipated state of the bowels in my opinion chiefly arises from the unstimulating nature of their diet. A good many persons afflicted with lepra applied for escharotics, but in them the disease had taken far too firm a hold of the system, and had reached its advanced stages, for any class of remedies to cure the malady, the joints of the fingers and toes having dropped off, the soles of the feet being perforated by leprous ulcerations, and the features generally disfigured by lobulated tumours. It appeared to me most prevalent among the slave population, many of whom had no owners, and who were obliged to pick up a miserable and uncertain subsistence, without clothing, unless the dirty and scanty rag which hid their nakedness could be so described, and who were housed in dens reeking with filth and redolent of squalor and misery.

Elephantiasis and lepra in all its hideous forms prevail. The disease is said to prevail more on the windward than on the leeward part of the coast. The natives suppose it may be induced by drinking excessively of palm wine which has been mixed with the juice of the bamboo; but it may, with much greater reason, be accounted for by an excess of fish diet. With regard to lepra, young persons of both sexes, and even infants in arms, were brought to me, in whom it appeared in copper-coloured patches on the breast, between the shoulders, face, or upper extremities, in many cases it being clearly traceable to hereditary taint. The fingers and toes swell greatly before ulceration, after which they drop off, or are "cut," as the natives term it, much pain having been felt in them, generally at night. The feet and ankles become enormously enlarged and deformed. Foul defoedations appear chiefly upon the neck, arms, and legs, the skin of the other parts of the body, although changed in colour, retaining its smoothness. The contrast occasionally seen in this disease from black to a light-brown copper colour is very striking; sometimes little or none of the original colour of the skin remains, a few spots alone indicating its original hue. The ulcers are at first often superficial, appearing as slight abrasions of the cuticle; but a closer inspection will detect a thin foul crust situated upon its edge. The voice in some becomes hoarse, and the throat is tinged with an erisepelatous blush. Should the skin recover its natural colour, the natives consider the disease as cured. It is not considered contagious by the natives, and they do not hesitate to eat from the same dish, and will even sleep on the same mat with persons afflicted with lepra or elephantiasis. They believe it to be hereditary. The wretched sufferers themselves almost invariably ascribe it to poison having been thrown upon, or secretly given, them by some witch whose displeasure they had incurred. The distemper, with all its loathsome evils, does not appear to shorten life, for they live a long time, and even attain old age. Lepers intermarry.

The natives are very subject to apthous ulcerations of the mouth, and a spongy and bleeding state of the gums, with looseness of the teeth. This appeared to me to depend upon the wide diffusion of land scurvy, aggravated by uniformity of diet and the depressing influences of the unwholesome condition of their houses aiding the operation of a local miasm. Cases are not rare where there is much bodily wasting, with frequent bloody oozings from the gums, and gangrenous ulcers of the mouth and fauces, with petechial spots on the legs. The habit of taking snuff by the mouth, which is largely practised by both sexes, not only on the Gold Coast, but likewise at the Gambia and Sierra Leone, contributes to erode the gums, besides communicating an offensive odour to the breath. The snuff is placed in the mouth between the gum and the lower lip, or cheeks, the ugly black ridge disfiguring the pretty faces of many of the black and coloured girls. From all these circumstances it may be readily supposed that they suffer quite as much from toothache as Europeans.

GOLD COAST.

The blacks are very subject to ulcerations of the feet, and few of them are free from the marks of former deep-seated ulcerations either on the feet or legs. They manage their sores very badly, washing them far too much, thereby softening the granulations, and otherwise greatly retarding the healing process by their injudicious methods of sprinkling various powders over the face of the ulcer. A few persons labouring under measles were brought to me during the year, but the disease, I am glad to state, did not become epidemic as in 1857.

A very large proportion of those who were treated at the dispensary were afflicted with scrofulous disease, either in the form of ulcerations of the skin, glandular swellings of the neck, or disease of the bones. The cause of its prevalence, I feel assured, is clearly traceable to the crowded, ill-ventilated, and generally foul condition of their houses and sleeping places. The walls of most of their dwellings are formed of clay, which are rarely, if ever, whitewashed. Most of the rooms are miserably small, damp, dark, and badly ventilated, especially those devoted to sleep. In their sleeping places the poorer classes and many persons in better circumstances keep all the dirty clothing not in wear, either about their beds or hanging from the wall, scraps of food and putrid fish being strewed about or collected in corners. The lower rooms open into inner courts, wherein the members of the several families meet, and where they generally cook and eat their food. The houses of the wealthy native gentlemen are well built, commodiously and often elegantly furnished, but few of them have fire-places either in the public rooms or bed rooms, a want which impairs health in a country exposed to heavy night dews and in some wet seasons to heavy falls of rain. The general custom on the Gold Coast is to burn charcoal in clay pots ingeniously made for that purpose, and which are introduced into the public rooms and burnt in the bedrooms when the weather is damp or cold. This practice is not without danger, as on one occasion I was called to render aid to a man whom I found had been asphyxiated by the fumes of charcoal to which he was exposed in a close sleeping room. From inquiries I have made I find that twenty may be safely reckoned the average number of tenants living under one roof in the two-storied houses of Cape Coast, and it often happens that sober, decent people dwell in one apartment, and a drunken man in the next; for I regret to say that drunkenness is a wide-spread vice among the natives, a circumstance chiefly dependant upon the cheapness of the spirits imported from the United States and the Brazils. In these houses the well conducted are too often pestered and annoyed by their disorderly neighbours, and the most violent altercations frequently occur between the members of the different families. On these occasions they seldom come to blows, but content themselves by heartily abusing one another in the foulest language they can lay tongue to. Such quarrels, although they may commence among the male branches of the family, are almost invariably taken up by the female members, when the men cease their angry recriminations, and listen with much complacence to the scolding of their wives and concubines, the contending women rushing up to each other, gesticulating in the most frantic way, screaming furiously, and vociferating in the loudest tones, each of them in this war of words being backed up by mutual friends among the spectators, to whom they constantly appeal to support their vituperations. In this way their children grow up, and become accustomed to the continual recurrence of such scenes, and suffer corresponding neglect, sometimes petted until they become wilful and insufferably perverse, at other times unmercifully beaten, the domestic peace being occasionally disturbed by their mothers' cries when tied up and beaten by their fathers, with fist, stick, or whip, for some connubial fault. In these abodes the laws which govern health are therefore utterly neglected, all kinds of refuse and filth being allowed to accumulate in and around them. In the rainy season, and especially during the "smokes" or dense foggy weather, the pernicious effect of these local contaminations is more sensibly felt in the spread of dysentery, diarrhœa, remittent and intermittent fevers, and in the prevalence of pulmonary disorders; other exciting causes being also in active operation. Perspiration, for example, is checked by the damp air and vicissitudes of temperature, giving, frequently, rise to internal congestion, languid circulation in the liver and functional disturbance of that organ. Nevertheless, some cause other than these must be at work to account for their yearly prevalence and the high rate of mortality, and this it appears to me can only be accounted for by the diffusion of a specific poison of a malarious and partly of a scorbutic nature. Indeed this has to my mind been most ably demonstrated by the observations of my friend, Dr. Mac Cormack, of Belfast, who has rigorously followed up investigations on this subject during several years. It is his opinion "that all cases of scrofula or of phthisis have "invariably, as an antecedent, the prolonged respiration of impure air, that is to say, of air already respired; "while, conversely, everything alleged hitherto as the cause of these affections does not apply to all the "cases, scrofula and consumption being more frequently developed in man and animals exposed to an "insufficiently renewed atmosphere, whatever might be the condition to which they were subjected." He has proved "that when air containing eight or ten per cent. of carbonic acid is respired the blood "ceases to give off carbonic acid. The products of the interstitial waste incessantly going on are "therefore retained in the blood. The waste is converted into tubercle, and tubercle is the waste "retained in the system, laid down in holes and corners here and there, owing to the impossibility of "otherwise getting rid of it, so long as foul air, i.e., air previously respired, is habitually made "use of."

I feel convinced that those organs which bear the first brunt of the vitiated air in their overcrowded and close rooms soonest suffer. This is the case with the eye and ear, as well as the lungs, and the numbers by whom I was consulted, suffering from hæmoptysis, ophthalmia, or otorrhæa bears out the truth of my assertion. But besides these fertile sources of disease, the poverty of the mass of the people ought to be taken into account in dealing with this subject, because the long train of evils which spring from it are so formidable that although benevolence may mitigate, it cannot prevent them.

The natives suffer severely from rheumatism, rheumatic swellings of the large joints, and anomalous fugitive pains, often brought on by careless exposure to chills, and their habit of sleeping on the damp earth, exposed in an unprotected state to the heavy night dues.

7. The sanitary condition of the town is deplorable, notwithstanding that some good has of late been effected by the municipality, yet, strange to tell, no public cloacinæ have as yet been provided to meet the wants of the people, although the subject has been repeatedly taken up, and just as suddenly

dropped, the consequence being that decency is constantly outraged, and the most disgusting nuisances are openly committed on the streets. Foul stenches everywhere assail the nose and corrupt the air, dunghills being attached to the huts, where garbage, filth, and stinking fish, &c. are thrown. Indeed its inhabitants are chiefly indebted for the partial cleanliness that exists to those useful scavengers, the turkey buzzards, largely helped by packs of half-starved mangy curs and ill-conditioned hogs, who greedily devour the excrementitious matters which are left to rot upon the streets. I have said before that the houses are so closely connected that a free current of air between them is much impeded, and these narrow spaces and the public highways are further polluted by the surface drainage, which at present is allowed to escape freely from the houses upon the streets, and still further contributes to the unhealthiness of the town.

8. The mass of the inhabitants bury their dead in the basement floor of their houses; a practice not confined to the pagan part of the population, but also practised by many respectable and wealthy families. This hurtful custom cannot be too soon discontinued. It is not done by the natives of the interior, but by all accounts it has been an ancient custom on the coast towns. When the deceased is wealthy, valuable articles, as gold ornaments, gold dust, and aggery beads, are placed in the coffin, and the body is sprinkled with gold dust. These tombs in this way become family banks, and in the time of trouble the gold so deposited is applied to meet pressing claims or other family purposes. I may here mention that several persons have been buried in the floor of the medical store of the Colonial Hospital, in the surgery, and in the kitchen used by the female prisoners. Suitable epitaphs are engraved on marble slabs which mark the spot where two of the dead rest.

There are two badly situated graveyards in Cape Coast, both being in the windward part of the town, one of them being, moreover, surrounded by a dense population; and these cemeteries, from their position, are very injurious to the health of the community. But besides these burial places, wherein Christians are alone interred, graves at present are allowed to be dug on the beach for certain of the pagan population, and slaves are buried, without restriction to position, along the pathways of the suburbs of the town, in the common near the Salt Pond, and elsewhere. To correct these evils, I would respectfully suggest that the Christian burial ground should be closed up, and cemeteries be opened to the leeward of the town, where there is an abundance of lands lying waste suitable for the purpose, and that a piece of ground be set apart wherein to bury the dead of the pagan and slave population.

As each house or hut contains a number of individuals, the population is condensed, and the extent of the town is correspondingly diminished in size. The population of Cape Coast and suburbs may be fairly estimated at 8,000 persons, including men, women, and children, but a large fluctuating population, who visit it either to trade, to have their political palavers discussed and arranged by the government, and the crowds constantly passing to and from towns and villages on the seabord, and from the rural districts to the Court of the Judicial Assessor, largely increases the number of its inhabitants.

A ravine, evidently the bed of a dried-up stream, intersects the eastern portion of the town, the huts of the natives rising in several parts from its edge or built upon its banks. This vast surface sewer is strewed over with animal and vegetable refuse, in every stage of decay, and perforated in a great part of its course by holes which the people dig for water. At the seaside, where it terminates, the suface water is dammed up by the sand thrown up by the surf on the shore, and is there collected into fœtid pools. With regard to this gully, I respectfully submit that if it were thoroughly cleansed, and bridged over at the most convenient points, the health and comfort of the inhabitants would be materially benefited.

Another important point would be to obtain an abundant supply of good water, and this could readily be effected, at a moderate expense, by boring and constructing wells. At present the supply of this element of life is very inadequate to meet the wants of the townspeople, and in the dry weather, or in seasons of drought when there is little or no fall of rain, as was the case in 1856, it must be procured from springs in the bush, or from the Sweet or Aquatachie rivers. A number of wells, I believe dug by the Portuguese, are situated near the head of the ravine; but as they belong to private families, and are kept carefully locked up, they are only accessible to a privileged few among the community. These wells are in depth about 40 or 50 feet. An unfinished tank, built by subscription, and which I understand cost 1,500*l.*, was erected near the centre of the town, and if it is ever completed would prove of the utmost advantage.

In 1857 I was called upon as a member of a commission then appointed to examine and report upon the sanatory condition of the Castle. The tanks were at that time in a most unsatisfactory condition, being polluted with feculence and concentrated fluid filth, which was washed into them from the privies. The water in the trapped tank, situated on the great triangular area, was in a state of decomposition, as announced by the gaseous product, carburetted hydrogen, bubbling to the surface, over which a greasy pellicle floated. In these reservoirs the water was still further defiled by the excrements of domestic animals, and by the insects fitted to live in the foul fluid. But the water in the tank immediately under the guard-room was comparatively pure and wholesome, and being wholly collected from the roof of that building it is less exposed to contamination. Since that report was made the tanks have been cleansed out, and porcelain tubing now conveys the water along the Spur and great triangular spaces to them; but during heavy falls of rain stercoraceous and other fluid filth is still liable to be washed down from the privies, and swept up from the adjoining battery and part of the great triangular space, into one of the large tanks situated in the south-east sea battery, through a vertical grated aperture built into the inner wall; and this will always happen until the gullyhole in question is either closed up or differently arranged. At present, the rain water in rushing down the sloping surface towards the water gate is checked in its course by a semicircular layer of masonry built near the tank, apparently to direct the drainage into a surface channel lower down; but its operation is mischievous, as the intercepted water eddying round the grated opening referred to is forced through it into the tank. I therefore respectfully submit, that means should be taken to remedy an evil so fatal to health; and I would at the same time suggest, that, to render the tanks complete, the filters recently supplied should be erected, and that they should all be made perfectly watertight.

GOLD COAST.

9. In the vicinity of Cape Coast a low, undulating, hilly range encloses it in an amphitheatre of irregular form; the chain of hills, sweeping in a convex semicircle, takes a north-east and westerly direction to within a quarter of a mile to the east and about a mile to the west of the Castle. Beyond the hills, near the sea, are valleys of inconsiderable extent; their highest peaks do not exceed 300 feet in height above the level of the sea, while their average height is about 170. Their peaks and declivities are densely covered with copsewood, interspersed with a few cocoa-nut trees, the elais guinunsis, and date palms, with forest trees. In the lower grounds cleared patches occur, sparsely covered with a grassy sward, and dotted over with clumps of trees; but the land under cultivation bears so very small a proportion to that lying waste, which prevails to such an extent, that the former is the exception to and the latter the rule. The bush has, however, been cleared away in different places in the suburbs by industrious persons, chiefly pensioners from the West India Regiments, and these spots appear to much advantage when contrasted with the wilderness of jungle left in its primitive unproductiveness.

About a mile from the Castle, and to the north-west of it, there is a salt lake upwards of a mile in length and half that distance in breadth. It is below the level of the ocean, from which it is separated by a belt of sand, and is filled with water intensely salt, which percolates from the ocean through the intervening mound of sand. There are similar salt ponds in the immediate vicinity of Anamaboe, James Town, Accra, and Christiansborg Castle, from which the people obtain supplies of crab and other fish. In the rainy season the water falling upon the hills which surround it is drained into the pond, and its volume is still further increased by springs which rise through the spungy reed-covered morass at its extremity. When the rains are at their height the area of the loch is greatly extended, portions of the adjoining land being regularly flooded at that season.

As regards health, the removal of the jungle, and the tillage of the waste lands in the vicinity of Cape Coast, would free it from a perpetual source of febrile and dysentric diseases, which at all times more or less afflict its inhabitants.

The soil differs in different localities. In some places it is siliceous, or composed of a black and fertile loam, while in other situations it is argillaceous, and of a reddish brown colour, through which quartz, mica, and feldspar crop out. A dark hard baked clay is abundantly met with, which is intimately blended with minute spangles of mica, and which is broken up with difficulty and labour. Many of the clays are made into pots, and are in common use throughout these settlements for cooking purposes, for which they are exceedingly well adapted.

In several parts of the country, as in Akim, Tueful, and Wassaw, gold digging is the occupation of large numbers of people who resort there from all parts of the settlements. All day and night nothing is heard but the noise of digging, grinding, and washing the soil. The pits at their entrance are generally two feet in diameter, and vary from 40 to 50 feet in depth, according to the distance of the auriferous quartz from the surface. The earth is removed with a claypot attached to a rope, and in this way the hole is deepened and made large enough to admit of one man working in a squatting position. The excavated earth is divided between the men who work the pit, who carry it home and there grind and wash it. The chief of the district is entitled to one third of the proceeds. From these pits being shored up very imperfectly, and often not at all, masses of earth fall in, burying the miners alive.

Apintoe and Essahman are the principal gold fields in Western Wassaw. At the diggings, marketable goods, such as cotton, rum, gunpowder, &c. are sold at greatly enhanced prices, from the difficulty of their transport, in exchange for gold dust. The yield varies greatly. The metal is procured at some of the "holes" from the auriferous soil, and at others from the crushed quartz. In other districts it is fished up from the bed of the rivers. At Cape Coast and along the seaboard, women may be observed every morning washing the sand on the beach, especially after heavy rains. The sweepings of the market floors are also dilligently swept up and washed, to recover any gold dust dropped during the day. The earnings of these poor women average about 10*d.* sterling daily, but occasionally 2*s.* 6*d.* worth of granular gold rewards their toil. To the granules collected on the beach a fine black and, apparently, metallic sand is often found adhering.

The bulk of the gold exported from this coast comes from Ashantee, and the quantity annually sent to England is estimated at 100,000 ozs.

10. Having travelled through several parts of the country in the windward and leeward coasts, I crave leave to record my impressions regarding the subject of population.

Judging from what I saw, my opinion is that the protected territory is sparsely inhabited. The population of this territory has been estimated at 400,000, scattered over a suface of about 8,000 square miles. The people have no manufactures worthy of the name, but may be separated into three classes, agriculturists, traders, and fishermen. There are, however, several places along the seaboard where salt is procured by the natural evaporation of sea water in shallow pans. Magnificent forests cover large tracts in the windward districts, in which no human being dwells. Even the charming glades which open up the forests at several points, relieving and delighting the eye tired of the wearisome sameness of the route, are uninhabited; their refreshing calm and pleasantly cool shades, being seldom trodden by the foot of man, are left the undisturbed inheritance of the wild denizens of the woods. In fact they are to a great extent rendered impenetrable by masses of underwood, and plants with prickles which grow between the trees and interlace them together; the tortuous pathway being alone trodden by the foot of man, while upon the vast plains in the neighbourhood of Pram Pram no house is to be met with for many miles in succession. The population has not been diminished by war, pestilence, or famine, for the Croboe revolt last year may be said to have been put down without bloodshed; nevertheless the increase of population has not been in any degree commensurate with what might reasonably be expected under such favourable circumstances. To what then is the cause ascribable? In my humble opinion the chief cause arises from the enormous mortality which continually occurs in infancy from mismanagement by the natives of their young, and by their unskilful medical treatment. Polygamy is another cause which powerfully contributes to this effect, because the habits which it engenders materially diminishes the number of births, and, undoubtedly, the easy access to spirits, and its enormous consumption in these settlements, may justly be considered extremely prejudicial to life.

11. I was called upon to attend several women in lingering and difficult labour during the past yea .

I generally found an aged woman acting as midwife, but the patient was also cheered by the presence of numerous male and female friends, and although I readily induced them to leave the room, they returned as soon as I had left the house to console her.

12. Abortion is sometimes practised. In a case which occurred a few years ago it was effected by introducing into the womb a piece of pointed stick, upon which certain country medicines had been smeared, and thereafter administering a draught composed of the same drug. Labour came on in two hours, when she was delivered of a dead child. She died a month after. In another instance a woman in a respectable position had become pregnant, and dreading the loss of her appointment she applied to a fetish woman at Anamaboe, who, after much persuasion, and a promise of a fee of 3*l.* 12*s.*, consented to her earnest entreaty, and administered a draught, which immediately caused vomiting, succeeded by severe pains in the belly, when collapse came on, and she died six hours after taking the dose. The preparations used in the second instance to induce abortion were made from the leaves of the plant Emboo, and the bark of the tree Cola. An enema was made by rubbing together and then strongly expressing the juice from the leaves of the plant Emboo into about a pint of cold water, into which a small quantity of the powder of cayenne pepper was put. This was administered about six o'clock A.M., and shortly after it acted freely on the bowels. The woman then washed and anointed her skin, when a dose of the bark of the colatree was given her. The bark was finely ground into powder, mixed with a wine-glass full of lime juice, and drunk off half an hour after the injection had been given. Sometimes the enema is repeated, and the cola powders are given for two or three successive mornings until the desired effect is produced.

Abortion is sometimes resorted to when a woman who is suckling becomes pregnant, on the grounds of the injury done to the baby at the breast, and because generally they are too poor to rear the child upon spoon meat.

Among the natives of the Gold Coast a sterile woman is a reproach, and the birth of children is most earnestly desired, and several instances have come to my knowledge of well-educated natives consulting fetish practitioners to remove the cause of the barrenness by means of medicines and various charms, a consummation sometimes happily attained by a change of habits, but which is almost invariably ascribed by them to the power of the drugs of their country doctors.

The case of child birth noted in the annexed yearly Medical Return marked I. occurred in the early part of September. The mother, an Ashantee refugee slave, was then delivered of a female child. Immediately after its birth the skin was first carefully scraped with a knife, and afterwards scrubbed with dry sand, to remove the natural unctuous coating spread over it, when the infant was washed. These proceedings occupied an hour, and were performed in the open air. I.

Children born with supernumerary fingers or toes are looked upon by the superstitious people of the Gold Coast as witches. In one instance which came to my knowledge the infant was on this account, soon after its birth, burnt alive; and, in another case, the child was destroyed by twisting its neck, when it was buried in a dungheap. Both these atrocities were committed in the districts of Wassaw, several days' journey from Cape Coast.

13. When the natives lose in succession one or two children by death they mark the next born, by making one cut on each temple, but should that child also die they mark their next born by making three vertical and one transverse incisions across the temple, these cuts being so made that the marks are indelible. Should the death of their children occur frequently, they sometimes throw the body of the child which has died last into the bush, to be devoured by wild beasts; but they attribute any congenital deformity that may appear in the child that may be born after this barbarous custom to its having been so injured when cast into the jungle, as they firmly believe that the child that has been born defective is the same child whose body they had flung away. This circumstance shows a belief in the doctrine of metempsychosis.

14. The women of the lower orders wear strings round their legs, and often above their ankles, and these ligatures are generally so tightly drawn that the cord leaves a deep mark upon the skin, showing that the return of the blood in the cutaneous veins had been interrupted. The reason alleged for wearing these ties is to distinguish their sex. Sometimes these ties are fetished, to cure their pains, when they are knotted, a piece of blue or scarlet cloth being attached to the cords.

15. I was frequently called upon to prescribe for young children suffering from swellings of the feet and legs, resembling anasarca, and proving fatal unless properly treated. Very many of these children were slaves, who had been purchased some weeks or months before, either from the Ashantees or Wassaws, and most of them were about three years of age.

Judging from what has fallen under my observation at Cape Coast, I am of opinion that 300 slaves are brought to this station every quarter from Coomassie and Wassaw.

The natives suffer occasionally from œdema of the face, and they look upon its appearance with great alarm, as it is a sure index of constitutional decay and disease of the liver. Persons affected in this way have a bloated sickly aspect, with mental dejection, and indifference to life. Tonic remedies, with alteratives, sometimes effected a cure; but the majority of instances proved fatal. A good many persons of both sexes, but chiefly males, applied to me while suffering from gonorrhea

16. Regarding guinea worm, I am satisfied that it is not caused by drinking impure water. The natives entertain an idea that the guinea worm prefers taking up its abode in the skin of those persons who have, as they express it, "sweet flesh," and that it avoids the skin of those in whom the perspiratory fluid is acid, the prevailing opinion among them being that the germ of the worm gets in some way into the skin: in what way they do not know. All the natives of the Gold Coast believe that there is a male and female guinea worm. The male worm is about the thickness of a crow's quill, the female being about the thickness of stout linen thread. There is no other perceptible difference, and they attain an equal length. Some of the people think it of more frequent occurrence during the rains, while others consider it is quite as much so in the dry season. From a peculiar idiosyncracy some persons are attacked by the worm every year, occasionally having several worms in various parts of the body at one and the same time. An individual may have at one and the same time a male and female guinea worm in the body, when two or three worms are present in it. The length of time that may elapse before the worm is extracted varies. Sometimes it will take six months, and if cut or

GOLD COAST. broken two or three years; but should an abscess form and ripen quickly its expulsion is soon effected; but the average time may be reckoned at three months before it can be got rid of. They consider that the female worm is the most difficult to get rid of, and if either the male or female worm is broken they believe that worms are produced from the fluid exuded from the divided parts. Children seven months old have frequently guinea worms generally in their feet and arms. Many of the natives suppose the worms existsd in their bodies before they were born; but it is well known that children, while their parents are suffering from the disease, come into the world without a trace of the worm, and grow up without getting it. Some persons continue subject to this cruel infliction during their lives, and aged persons are frequently afflicted with worms of each sex. To cure it, a cold poultice of cankey, made of Indian corn, is applied over the blistered-like surface at which the worm appears; and if an abscess is present, and points, they open it either with a needle or razor. A coarse powder is likewise made by pounding the leaves of certain plants, a portion of which they take into the mouth, and eject it in the form of a thin jetty spray over the part. At other times this powder is mixed up with water, and daubed over and around the opening from which the worm protrudes. Fresh chalots are also pounded, and fastened over it; and this application sometimes breaks up the worm, or causes it to be more readily extracted. They secure the worm by a thread, which they either wind round the part, or knot it, to prevent its retraction, and attach a small weight, as a piece of lead, to the free end of the packthread. No internal remedies are taken by them, but they spread palm oil all over certain leaves, and then apply them over the wound. In most instances the legs and feet are the seats of the disease; the only part of the body which seems exempt from its invasion is the hairy scalp, and in that position it has never been seen. Several persons have been known to have thirty worms in their bodies at one and the same time. My friend, Surgeon Major E. A. Brien, reporting last year on the prevalence of guinea worm, remarked that the men who slept on mats on the floor of the barrack rooms were constantly attacked with guinea worm, but upon beds and bedding being issued the disease gradually decreased. In the treatment of guinea worm the iodide of potass has been found serviceable, given internally in doses of five grains three times daily. It appears to destroy the worm and its germs, and to hasten its expulsion. Tincture of asafœtida has also been administered, with a similar intention, but I am sceptical of much good being derived from its use, both on account of its volatile qualities and from its quickly passing off through the kidneys. In opening abscesses I have frequently found two or three worms inextricably coiled together, an occurrence fortunate for the sufferer, as they are speedily got rid of. The worst effect of guinea worm is that of occasionally inducing permanent deformity of one or both feet, when it takes up its seat in these parts, for it gets so twined about the tendon achilles and tendons of the feet, and excites so much inflammation that they not unfrequently become permanently flexed and contracted to such an extent that the person treads solely upon the cushion of the foot and toes, and walking is a work at once slow and difficult.

17. A few persons who have suffered in early life from rachitis may be observed going about upon their hands, which are protected by wooden instruments; and the proportion of persons with distorted spine, which gives rise to the hunchback, is quite as often met with as in Europe. The native kings and chiefs are fond of having hunchbacked people about them as court criers, to carry messages to short distances, and to amuse them with their buffoonery, grotesque appearance, and generally quick and witty remarks. On the death of a person whose spine is much hunched up the natives cut away the hunch before they bury the body, because they believe that if this was not done other members of the deceased family would become similarly deformed.

In some parts of the country the natives, on the death of a leper, burn the body, and also the clothes and mats that they had used, but in other parts lepers are interred in the nests raised by the ant, and they do not make custom for persons dying of smallpox, but bury their bodies in the bush.

18. Stammering is a defect very common among the people, but is affected by many among them, as it is thought fashionable to stammer.

The number of persons blind from cataract and amaurosis is very considerable, but the number of deaf and dumb people is much less.

The number of children with large and protuberant bellies is remarkable, but it does not seem to arise from disease, but from their being allowed to cram with food of difficult digestion, as when they grow up the enlargement disappears.

Exomphalos is very common, and arises from their neglecting to bandage the umbilicus after birth. The parents of some of the children who suffer from this deformity generally employ the drummer of a company to beat very gently upon the infant's navel. This ceremony is performed three times upon Sundays and Wednesdays, with a view to the removal of the hernia.

I was consulted by two persons who had been attacked with aphonia; they were both young people; one of them was a girl of 18 years, who had been attacked five days before I saw her, but she made a good recovery.

During the year I had frequent occasion to pass the catheter in cases of retention of urine among males, and I had several times to perform the operation in females suffering retention in difficult and lingering labours.

19. A superficial observer might suppose, from the very few deranged, imbecile, or fatuous persons going about at large in the coast towns of these settlements, that the inhabitants were seldom attacked by maniacal disease, but, from inquiries I have made on this subject, I am satisfied such is not the fact. Lunatics, it is true, are seldom seen in the coast towns, because their friends remove them into the bush as soon as possible after the maniacal accession has been manifested. For the Fantees, Accras, and all other races on the Gold Coast view madness with horror, and as bringing disgrace upon the afflicted party and his family and friends. Suitable houses are, therefore, generally appropriated in the bush for the reception and medical treatment of the insane. In the neighbourhood of Accra and its vicinity persons suffering from mania are sent to the town of Tescia, a few miles distant from Accra.

With respect to the mode of treatment adopted by their doctors in these native asylums, the primary objects aimed at appears to be the security of the patients, and the prevention of harm being done by them either to themselves or others during the maniacal paroxysms. With these objects in view, the

patients are carefully secured by fastening the wrist to a log of wood by an iron staple, sufficient space being left between the log and staple to serve the purpose of a rude handcuff. If the lunatic is very violent, the ankles are similarly fastened. In this condition they lie or sit on the ground, where they are much neglected, being allowed to become dirty and extremely loathsome. On the first appearance of the disease the head is shaved, when pounded leaves and other cooling applications are kept on it, to reduce its temperature, and to calm down mental irritation.

The people of this coast are liable to a lethargy known among them as "the sleepy sickness." The drowsiness is so overpowering that the patient falls asleep even while eating. Young girls, in whom the catamenia has never appeared or is suppressed, are frequently attacked with the disease. At Sierra Leone, I have known several instances of its being induced in youths of both sexes from smoking "diamba," or Indian hemp.

Attacks of coup de soleil are of rare occurrence. Indeed, it is a very common thing to see children secured to their mothers' backs with the head exposed to the fierce glare and heat of noonday, without suffering in the slightest. This immunity is owing, in great measure, to the nature of their hair, and also to the relaxation of the system by which profuse perspiration follows the least exertion, thereby equalising the circulation and preventing local congestions. Even Europeans are not subject to sunstroke.

20. The powder of the Malagetta pepper is extensively used, and is applied externally in fever, rheumatic and fugitive pains. One way of applying it is by spitting the pepper from the mouth over the affected parts in a thin steamy shower; and this is repeated until the pepper is sufficiently sputtered over the patient. The pepper is also mixed into a paste with water, and painted over the skin in longitudinal lines; but in Wassaw and elsewhere they daub it over the skin, without taking that trouble, when the Malagetta pepper is applied in the way just described. All the joints are at the same time marked with a single spot of white chalk; and this observance is a custom which is practised only on the living; for the dead, although perfumed with Malagetta pepper and sweet-scented plants, are never chalked.

21. The natives pay great attention to keep the skin clean, and, when bathing, dry scrub it with sand to remove impurities. I have frequently seen them, when alone, lie down on the sand of the sea-beach on their back, and scrub themselves by rubbing the back against the sand; but they often assist one another to perform this salutary process. They also scrub the soles of the feet clean by dancing backwards and forwards upon the sand; but all this care to preserve the skin clean does not extend to their clothing, which is only washed at uncertain intervals, and is frequently extremely dirty.

22. I have observed that the mortality among the natives is greatest at the commencement and termination of the rainy season, and that hepatitis, diarrhœa, and dysentery are then most prevalent, these diseases being then frequently brought on by eating new corn, ground nuts, casada, and yams before they are sufficiently dry. The food of the mass of the people chiefly consists of vegetables and fruits, with fresh fish, and dried fish in excess, often so highly ammoniacal as to be commonly known under the name of "stink fish," with land snails, and land and sea crabs. But their principal dish is composed of fish, and, when they have the means, of fish, fowl, or meat stewed singly or together; palm oil, freshly expressed from the nut, being always an important ingredient in it. This stew is made piquant and wholesome by the addition of salt, bitter tomatoes or ocroes, shallots, or, as substitute for the latter, the dried bark of a tree called "Edooah Ahyew" (which resembles the onion in flavour and taste), and abundance of red peppers, With this highly seasoned stew they eat unleavened bread made of indian corn, or with pounded yams or plantains, which, when cooked, is called foofoo. Great part of the food of the people on the coast consists, as I have just stated, of bread made from indian corn, while the natives inland subsist chiefly upon plantains, yams, cassada, and sweet potatoes, and in this respect the former are in advance of the latter, as the use of cereals as food has always been accounted a marked step in national civilization. Animal food is however seldom eaten, and even milk is rarely used by them. They are in the habit of eating once or twice a day, and often distend the stomach with bulky food to such an extent that its functions and those of the liver and bowels become disturbed and weakened, nature relieving herself by passing the undigested food away in the form of diarrhœa. Hence it follows that the food of the black and coloured population generally is less nourishing and stimulating than that of the European, and they consequently suffer so little from fever; but, nevertheless, when attacked with disease, the vital vigour of their constitution is so slight that they are less able to bear up against the shock, or to rally when the powers of life have been reduced by physical depression.

23. Both native and European suffer much from hepatic affections, and a great many of the former class were treated at the dispensary while suffering from jaundice, either incipient or complete. Acute hepatitis is prone in this climate to run into abscess. To illustrate the rapidity with which this organ may be completely destroyed, I may mention that I was consulted during the year in the case of two European officers; the first, about 27 years of age, was seized with rigor fever, and pain over the liver, with most persistent constipation, and, in spite of the utmost attention, he died in nine days from the commencement of the attack. On examination the liver was found broken down, and softened into a substance of the consistence of thick jam. In the second case, the officer might be about 36 years of age. He was first attacked with hæmorrhoids, to which he was occasionally subject, followed by diarrhœa, prostration of strength, and delirium, and he sunk soon after the first severe symptoms had set in. Examination after death showed that the liver was extensively burrowed by abscesses, and its substance infiltrated with purulent matter.

24. Dysentery being by far the most fatal disease on the Gold Coast, both to the European and native, I shall take the liberty of saying a few words respecting its treatment by the country practitioners. Their method of cure is, first, to purge the bowels with drastic medicines, after which some of them use an enema of the leaves of a plant called by them Annana Tanta, and restrict the diet to the powder of the flour of Indian corn which has been highly parched or roasted. A soup is eaten with it, made by boiling an infusion of the tanta leaf, scraped roasted plantains, and small pieces of dry fish, until it thickens. Should this mode of treatment fail, they use the bark of a tree called Etua (Kiglia Africana). The bark is boiled for two hours in fresh palm wine,

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and when cool is drunk three times daily. Boiled rice as a dry diet is also strongly recommended. To relieve tenesmus they introduce into the bowel a suppository, made either of ground grains of Paradise or the grains of a black pepper called Sasmah, which is beaten up with the leaves of the plant called Empoompoo. They also use for this purpose an enema made by expressing the juice of the plant called Yanchie (a plant of the phormium genus), which they mix with a small quantity of the acetate of copper. In fact, the natives depend much upon enemata, given in small quantity so as to be retained in the bowels, and upon great attention to diet. The patients are allowed by some of the country doctors to wash their bodies with warm water, but in general pure water is forbidden, the skin being instead assiduously laved with a cold infusion made by macerating for one or more days the decayed roots of the plantain tree, with the leaves of the lime tree, cassada plant, and roots of the water lilly, but in each the skin is subsequently anointed with shea butter. After this some light food, generally a gruel, called Pampa, made of indian corn, is taken. In treating dysentery they strongly recommend their patients to take cold air baths. They are directed to rise at daybreak, and sit naked in the open air exposed to the cool and pleasant morning breeze until 6 o'clock a.m. They are then washed in the infusion before described, have the skin well greased with the shea unguent, and partake of some pampa gruel, when they retire to rest, and frequently fall into a sound and refreshing sleep often lasting many hours. This simple method of obtaining an air bath is likewise much practised to restore the health of invalids convalescing from other lingering illnesses besides dysentery. Persons while suffering from dysentery are not restricted from the use of meat, but the mass of the people being without the means of procuring it, they use dried fish as a substitute, which seems to answer equally well in persons not accustomed to animal food. Crab and cray fish are eaten roasted, but prohibited when boiled; beef is not objected to, provided it has been cooked the previous day; and the same rule applies to venison, and the flesh of the porcupine, elephant, and buffalo; indeed many of the natives consider buffalo meat not only as a safe article of diet, but even view it as a valuable curative agent. Mutton and pork in any shape or form are prohibited as well as the flesh of the wild and domestic fowl. A cold infusion of the bark of a tree possessing the medical virtues of Winter's bark,* with the root, bark, and leaves of the Boabob tree is drank three or four times daily. Sometimes the powder of these plants is given in cold water frequently during the day, and this powder is also mixed up with a small quantity of warm water and administered as an enema at irregular intervals. The patient is likewise ordered to keep warm, the loins and belly being coated over with a paste made of the Malagetta pepper. Several of their medicines are given in palm oil on the supposition that when mixed with water they become inert. A great many other native remedies are used in this disease, and I have merely given a meagre outline of the general principles applied by them to cure it. They consider dysentery highly contagious, and take care not to use the same conveniences as the patient.

It will be observed that the method of treatment adopted by the natives to cure dysentery differs widely from the European plan of treatment in one most important point, that of diet, for the natives direct that the patient's food shall be dry and nutritive, whereas the general rule of diet adopted by European medical officers is to confine the sufferer to soups and farinaceous substances, with an entire abstinence from solid animal food. This, in my opinion, is the secret of the great success attained by the natives in the cure of dysentery. With regard to animal food, I am quite satisfied that it is unwisely interdicted in the treatment of dysentery, more especially when it becomes chronic. It is difficult to draw the line of demarkation between diarrhœa and dysentery where the one terminates and the other begins; hut diarrhœa will sometimes last for months at a time without dysentery, and with no organic disease of the liver, proving fatal by its persistance and the debility and emaciation it induces. In dysentery no one remedy has been found in European practice on the Gold Coast much superior to another; but great benefit has been frequently derived by giving the acetate of lead and opium in chronic cases. When the stools are frothy and feculent, sulphate of copper has been found of the most advantage.

Having myself suffered severely from dysenteric diarrhœa, I may briefly state that I obtained the greatest relief from the painful and distressing tenesmus and tormina always more or less present, from enemata composed of half a wine-glassfull of thin arrowroot mixed up with a tea-spoonfull of tincture of opium, the bowels having been previously cleared out with castor oil. This, combined with strict attention to a diet consisting of arrow root and chicken tea, was the chief treatment adopted, the strength being kept up with moderate quantities of port wine. I need hardly observe that there must be an entire abstinence from food dressed with peppers, and from the varied sauces and piquant condiments of the table, many persons having died of the consequences of indulging their appetites while convalescing from an attack of dysentery.

25. Tetanus, either in its idiopathic or traumatic form, is a disease by no means uncommon among the natives. In the early part of July last I attended a young woman in comfortable circumstances who had been attacked with idiopathic tetanus two days before I saw her. The jaws were firmly locked together, and the disease had otherwise fairly set in. Several remedies having been tried without effect, I, in consultation with my friend, Staff Assistant Surgeon O'Callaghan, administered chloroform to the patient, and with the good. effect of relaxing the muscles of the jaws so far as to allow food and medicines to be given; but the good done was only of a temporary nature, as she died next morning. I have no doubt, however, that chloroform given at an earlier stage of its invasion will prove a valuable adjuvant remedy in tetanic disease. Several persons applied for relief while suffering from an inability to separate one or both angles of the lower from the upper jaw. It is perfectly distinct from tetanus, as is readily shown by the expression of the countenance. It arises apparently from cold and malarious influence. At all events, the muscles of the lower jaw are stiff, and cannot be moved by the patient's will.

26. Delirium tremens is, I regret to say, by no means rare among the natives; and I may here record the great advantage which attended the use of chloroform in one of the worst cases of the

* The bark is procured from a tree which grows in the inland districts of the Gold Coast. It is rough and of a brown colour, and in taste resembles Winter's bark.

disease which I ever witnessed. A European, about thirty years of age, had before I saw him passed several nights and days in the most distressing condition, haunted with the idea that he had been guilty of a fearful crime, and obstinately resisting all persuasion to take medicine. In this lamentable plight, the powers of life being greatly exhausted, I suggested that chloroform should be tried. It was accordingly administered; but it failed in the first instance to induce sleep; nevertheless it soothed and calmed down the frightful mental alarm and apprehension that existed; but a further and longer trial of it induced a most refreshing sleep, from which he awoke free from delirium. Everything went on well after this, as he rapidly convalesced, being soon thereafter invalided.

27. Accidents from the bites of snakes occasionally happen; and two instances have fallen under my notice. A slave, a young man about seventeen years of age, was bitten while working in the bush on the outer and middle third of the right leg. I saw him about one hour after the receipt of the injury, and found his friends had placed cords both above and below the wound, so as effectually to intercept the circulation. The pulse was very feeble, the skin cold and clammy, and, in a word, he was in a state of collapse. In these circumstances I gave him a draught of aromatic spirits of ammonia and opium, and caused the wound to be diligently sucked, when I freely applied the nitrate of silver over its surface. His friends, having removed him, gave him an emetic, which caused him to vomit. He recovered in three weeks from the effects of the bite. In the other instance, a young Ashantee slave was bitten by a puff-necked snake in the forearm, in the act of moving a heavy package, and some of his countrymen who were beside him at the time immediately applied ligatures both above and below the wound, and at the same time freely scarified it with a razor, and then rubbed a lime and applied powdered leaves over it, while others of them promptly killed the snake, and having extracted both the poison sacs, then mixed the venom with trade rum and lime juice, and caused him to drink the mixture. Soon after he had taken the draught he vomited plentifully. There was very little swelling; and in a few days he was able to return to his usual avocations. The treatment adopted on this occasion to some extent resembles the homœopathic doctrine, as expressed in the axiom, *Similia similibus curantur*. The powdered bark and leaves of the cola tree are also considered an antidote for snake bites, provided it is promptly given to the sufferer.

The native doctors entertain the belief that it is unsafe to give medicines after sunset, and abstain from doing so except on the most urgent occasions. They suppose that the body is then too weak to undergo their action on the broad grounds that the sinking of the sun in the horizon is the universal signal for man to seek to recruit his strength by repose, and that remedies then taken act injuriously instead of beneficially.

28. I now beg to offer a few observations regarding the climate of the Gold Coast, which, in my humble opinion, may be favourably contrasted with that of Sierra Leone in several vital points. In the former the type of the remittent fever of the country is generally mild, of short duration, and rarely proves fatal to European life; in the latter, on the contrary, the seasoning fevers are prolonged, intractable, and too often terminate in death. Then, again, the epidemic as yellow fever which at uncertain intervals scourges the colonies of Gambia and Sierra Leone is wholly unknown on this coast. The atmosphere of the Gold Coast is moreover drier; the alternations of temperature neither so great or sudden; and the electric balance, if I may so express myself, is less liable to sudden disturbance. The mean fall of rain at the usual season is very much less than at Sierra Leone. The quantity of rain which falls during the year it has been stated averages from 80 to 100 inches. The nights during the rains are cool and pleasant; but the natives at this season suffer a good deal from catarrhs, pulmonary and rheumatic affections. During the rains thick fogs prevail, and this dense vapour renders the atmosphere hazy, descending in the evening in the form of a dew so heavy that it penetrates the wooden flooring to such an extent that the boards look as if just washed, and it hangs upon the jalousies of the inner doors of the house like great rain drops. The foggy weather prevails more or less in May, June, July, August, and September; and in these settlements, and on the coast generally, they are called smokes. More rain falls on an average in the interior of the country than on the seaboard; and this, in my opinion, does not arise from the land in the interior being more elevated than on the sea coast, but it appears to depend upon the large tracts of land covered with lofty forest trees attracting and arresting the clouds surcharged with moisture; for in the vicinity of the sea coast towns, the large trees having been cut down, there is merely copsewood densely matted by climbing plants; a circumstance which undoubtedly has greatly contributed to make the towns much more unhealthy than they would otherwise be had the forest trees in their neighbourhood been judiciously thinned, and not indiscriminately cleared away; for trees, it is well known, exercise a most salutary influence on the health of the inhabitants of malarious countries, by screening off and greatly modifying that most subtle poison. The seasons are well defined; the wet weather rarely encroaches on the boundaries of the dry, and the average variation of the temperature is 68° and 87° Fahrenheit, between the coldest time of the night and the hottest time of the day. Vide annexed Thermometrical Table marked 7. Even the harmattan winds, which in January and February blow from the E.N.E., are not in the least injurious to life, but, on the contrary, are much enjoyed by many Europeans who have lived long on the coast, as they find these winds very bracing. But persons recently arrived, on the contrary, generally find that they cause a dryness of the skin, and corresponding temporary functional disturbance of the liver. The heat of the climate on the Gold Coast is sensibly moderated by the breezes which blow at all seasons; and the heat is less oppressive and much less felt than at Sierra Leone, where it is checked by the land locked mountainous amphitheatres which border its shores and rivers. The climate of the Gold Coast is, I feel convinced, quite as good as most other tropical countries. The filth of the coast towns, the badness of the water, and proximity of the forts to the sea being evident causes of its apparent unhealthiness.

29. Dysentery is then the most fatal disease on this coast, but with ordinary care and attention no apprehensions need be entertained on the subject, provided medical aid is soon procured. Should the disease, however, persist, a removal to Europe is indispensably necessary to save life.

I may here remark, that I have observed that men advanced in life, and who had never been before in tropical climates, have a far better chance of living upon the Gold Coast, everything else being in other respects equal, than is the case at Sierra Leone or the Gambia, as aged persons settling at either Sierra

GOLD COAST. Leone or the Gambia incur an enormous risk. In these settlements they, on the contrary, enjoy good health, and generally are able to perform their several duties efficiently.

30. With regard to animal food, there is considerable difficulty in procuring regular supplies, as butcher meat is not sold in the markets; consequently Europeans must either kill a goat or sheep, which is both expensive and wasteful, or they are obliged to purchase a much larger quantity of the mutton or goats' flesh that is offered for sale than they want, or will keep wholesome until used up. Beef is rarely to be got on the windward coast; but at Accra very good beef can be obtained. Poultry is, however, abundant, reasonable in price, and, although small, is well flavoured, and turkeys at fair prices may occasionally be obtained from leeward districts. The vegetable market of Cape Coast is much better supplied than that of Accra. In the former, yams of the finest quality, cassada, ocroes, sweet potatoes, calavanches, and pumpkins, may, one or other, be had all the year round, and excellent cabbages are occasionaally offered for sale. Bitter tomatoes, peppers, shallots, &c. help to season the food, and render it more piquant. The sameness of the diet may, moreover, be varied by preserved meats and vegetables, but the high price demanded by the merchants for these articles at present restricts their use, and, in fact, operates as a prohibition to their more general consumption. Cape Coast is pretty well supplied with fish, but the bulk of the fish taken consists of a description of herring, which are cured in large quantities by roasting them for the home market, or they are sent into the interior, and to the Ashantee country, where they are in great request. At Cape Coast the fishermen do not use deep-sea lines, but merely hand seines; a circumstance which prevents their taking the larger and finer varieties of fish which swim at a depth out of the reach of their nets; but at Winnebah, Accra, and Pram Pram the fishermen fish with deep-sea lines, and consequently much larger and finer kinds of fish are taken at these places than is the case at this station,

Many of the country cooked dishes, which are hrought to table in the native-made pots in which they are cooked, are good and wholesome, and excellent as a change of diet. In cooking, the natives prefer to pound their food. Thus yams, plantains, and cassada are triturated between stones, and served up under the name of foofoo, and are eaten with soup, meat, or fish.

Fruit, contrary to what might be expected, is scarce, and often cannot be procured. Compared either with Sierra Leone or the Gamhia, the suppiy of fruit is indifferent, and the variety limited to pines, limes, plantains. bannanas, mangoes, sour sops, the water melon, papua, tiger and ground nuts. Good oranges are occasionally to be got from Shuma, but they are not sold in the market. Cocoa nuts are abundant, and the water or milk is a most refreshing and wholesome beverage, which can be freely drunk to allay thirst. It ought, however, to be taken from the young nut.

31. In my opinion a very great deal of the suffering and disease so constantly met with in this climate is occasioned, as elsewhere, by over-feeding, which, as well as over-drinking, has consigned its victims to the graveyards of these settlements, sobriety as regards eating being quite as necessary to preserve health as temperance in drinking. A fair proportion of animal with vegetable food is as necessary to support and preserve the body in good health here as in Europe; perhaps, even more so, because the powers of life are greatly lowered by the influence of an insidious climate. Good wine and bitter beer may be moderately partaken of, not only without harm, but with the advantage of fortifying the system. European residents on the Gold Coast are too often satisfied with wearing apparel suited to the climate, overlooking the fact that exercise in the open air is just as necessary to preserve health here as it is in Europe. Many of them likewise entertain an impression that the sun's rays are hurtful, whereas in nine cases out of ten the mischief is done, not by th esun, but by errors of personal economy. Feeling sadly the wearisome sameness of life upon this part of the coast recourse is too frequently had to stimulants instead of resorting to constant and inexhausting employment, the only effectual and safe remedy against an evil fraught with such lamentable consequences. Europeans also bestow too little attention upon ventilation, far more harm being done by breathing close and impure air during the night than is ever brought about by exposure to the night wind. Indeed, there should be the freest circulation of air in the bed-chamber, and this may always be managed without subjecting the body to draughts.

32. In and about all the sea-coast towns on the windward coast walking is the only exercise that can be taken, as horses and other beasts of burden only live for a short time; but in the leeward districts, where horses thrive admirably, equestrian exercise can be enjoyed, and health greatly improved by a daily ride over the fine pastoral country in the vicinity of Winnebah, Accra, Christiansborg Castle, and Pram Pram; and there cannot be a doubt that the great advantages resulting to health from the face of the leeward districts being formed of vast undulating plains, covered with grass, wild flowers, and clumps of trees and copsewood, tells most favourably for European life, when contrasted with the dense brushwood which generally prevails in the neighbourhood of the coast towns of the windward districts. I may here, however, mention, that the country in the neighbourhood of Elmina is much freeer of bush than that of Cape Coast, and horses generally live for a longer period at the former than at the latter station. A great deal of the land, however, lying to the north-west of Elmina and in its immediate vicinity is low and swampy, the ground being moreover broken by naturally formed ditches, into which the surface water drains during the rainy season. Notwithstanding the disadvantage above referred to, there might be many pleasant walks in the immediate vicinity of the towns in the windward districts, if trouble was taken to keep the roads clear of bush; a benefit which could be attained at a trifling cost, but which would confer on the inhabitants the means of enjoying the healthful recreation of walking on roads unencumbered with weeds and unpolluted by filth.

Great attention to keep the skin clean contributes much to preserve health in this climate, but the scarcity of water prevents a bath, properly so called, being taken; the substitute being a careful laving of the skin, which, however, answers very well. The natives and some Europeans bathe in the sea, washing off the salt water thereafter with fresh water.

33. In the time of sickness the want of female trained nurses is seriously felt by Europeans in these settlements. There are no nurses, strictly speaking. It is true that an aged woman, who understands English imperfectly, is sometimes got to look after the sick, but her attendance is considered rather as a favour, and she seldom remains beside the patient all night, as she generally then returns to her house, leaving the sick to be tended by male servants totally unqualified to undertake that duty. Should she

however, remain up, her infirm health obliges her to lie down, and she, in fact, is of little use, except to get some soup or other article of food prepared. Numbers of the native women could, however, be found who would gladly and cheerfully do all the numerous kind offices required by the sick, if they were not debarred by being unable to speak English. To remedy this evil I beg to recommend that two middle-aged women, of good character, be hired as hospital nurses to tend the sick. Under proper management, they would soon become familiar with their duties, and in case of sickness would be invaluable attendants upon the European officers and Europeans generally, when afflicted with disease of a dangerous nature; and from the well-known strong imitative qualities of the natives, there would be soon enough of women found to act as nurses, provided they are liberally and fairly remunerated for their trouble. I would also suggest, that they should be compensated at a fixed rate, as I am aware that unless this is done and well understood it would cause a great deal of trouble both to the patients and to the nurses.

34. With regard to the classes best adapted to resist the climatorial influence, the negro race undoubtedly, hold the first rank; but it is questionable whether persons of colour are better able to bear up against its effects than persons of pure European blood, provided the latter are sober in hteir habits. There can be no doubt that Europeans, upon their first arrival in this country, are in greater danger of losing their lives than the former, but when once they have become acclimated they seem generally to withstand the influence of the climate better than the coloured people, provided, I repeat, that they are temperate in their habits.

35. In closing this Report it may be thought that I have dwelt too minutely on some of the subjects; but as a vast proportion of the disease which afflicts the population is in my humble opinion preventable, I dared not hang a drapery over naked facts, however unsightly, or conscientiously soften them down more than truth seemed to exact, my only object being to show how much may be done to improve the health of the people of these settlements, and so mitigate human misery, by removing evils the fruitful parent of disease and death.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ROBERT CLARKE, Colonial Surgeon, and Surgeon to the Natives.

No. 1.

MEDICAL RETURN of the Number of Sick and Wounded treated in the Colonial Hospital, Cape Coast, from 31st December 1857 to 31st December 1858.

Disease.	Remained 31st December 1857.	Admitted.	Total treated.	Recovered.	Died.	Remaining 31st December 1858.
Fevers:						
Febris interm	–	1	1	1	–	–
Liver and spleen:						
Icterus	–	1	1	–	1	–
Enlargement of liver and spleen	–	1	1	–	–	1
Stomach and bowels:						
Dysenteria chron.	–	2	2	2	–	–
Colica	–	1	1	1	–	–
Hernia, strangulated	–	1	1	1	–	–
Brain:						
Apoplexia	–	1	1	–	1	–
Chephalalgia	–	1	1	1	–	–
Rheumatic affections:						
Rheumatic chron.	–	1	1	1	–	–
Phlegmons and ulcers:						
Abscessus	–	1	1	1	–	–
Ulcus	–	9	9	7	–	2
Wounds and injuries:						
Fractura	–	1	1	1	–	–
Contusio	–	3	3	3	–	–
Cut-throat	–	2	2	2	–	–
Luxatio	–	1	1	1	–	–
Vulnus	–	6	6	4	–	2
Venereal diseases:						
Paraphymosis	–	1	1	1	–	–
Diseases of the genito-urinary organs:						
Stricturæ urethræ	–	1	1	1	–	–
Extravasatio urethræ	–	1	1	1	–	–
Diseases of the skin:						
Frambœsia	–	2	2	2	–	–
Other diseases of uncertain and variable seats:						
Debility	–	4	4	4	–	–
Tumora	–	1	1	1	–	–
Anasarca	–	1	1	1	–	–
Amputatio	1	1	2	2	–	–
Childbirth	–	1	1	1	–	–
Total	1	46	47	40	2	5

GOLD COAST.

No. 2.

RETURN showing the Number, Sex, and Class of Persons treated in the Colonial Hospital at Cape Coast from 1st January to 31st December 1858.

Sex.	Europeans.	Coloured Persons.	Blacks.	Total Treated.	Remarks.
Men - - -	2	2	33	37	
Women - - -	–	–	7	7	
Boys - - -	–	–	3	3	
Girls - - -	–	–	–	–	
Total -	2	2	43	47	

No. 3.

RETURN showing the Description of Persons treated in the Colonial Hospital, Cape Coast, from 1st January to 31st December 1858, and the Circumstances which led to their Admission.

Sex.	Admitted at their own or Friend's Request.	Debtors.	Refugee Slaves from Ashantee.	Untried Prisoners.	Convicts.	Total treated.
Men - - -	19	4	7	3	4	37
Women - -	4	–	3	–	–	7
Boys - - -	2		1	–	–	3
Girls - - -	–	–	–	–	–	–
Total -	25	4	11	3	4	47

No. 4.

RETURN showing the Number of Persons treated in the Colonial Hospital at Cape Coast, and by whom dieted in the Period from 1st January to 31st December 1858.

Sex.	Dieted by their Friends.	By the Government.	Dieted by their Creditors.	Died before being dieted.	Total Number dieted.
Men - - -	13	21	2	1	37
Women - -	–	7	–	–	7
Boys - - -	1	2	–	–	3
Girls - -	–	–	–	–	–
Total -	14	30	2	1	47

No. 5.

RETURN of the Number, Cubical Contents, and Facilities for Ventilation in the Cape Coast Colonial Hospital, showing the Number of Inmates each Ward is capable of accommodating, allowing 600 Cubic Feet of Air to each Individual.

Description.	Cubical Contents.	Proportion of Patients to each Ward.	Ventilation.	
			Outside Windows.	Inside Windows.
Ground floor, Male ward - -	4,083	6	2	1
Ground floor, Female Ward - -	1,008	2 scanty	1	–
Second-floor, European Male Ward -	1,630	2	–	–
Total -	6,721	10	3	2

No. 6.

MONTHLY NUMERICAL RETURNS of the Numbers of Persons who received Medical Assistance and Medicines, many being attended at their Homes, in the Period from 1st January to 31st December 1858.

Months.	Number of Persons attended, &c.	Remarks.
January	437	
February	316	
March	414	
April	424	
May	414	
June	383	
July	382	
August	423	
September	425	
October	480	
November	521	
December	500	
Grand total	5,119	

No. 7.

TABLE showing the average Range of the Thermometer at Cape Coast Castle during the Year 1858.

Months.	Maximum Degrees	Minimum Degrees.	Remarks.
January	84	79	Harmattan wind throughout.
February	86	83	1st week fine; 2d, thunder and lightning. Heavy rain once.
March	85	83	Mostly fine. Rain twice.
April	87	82	2 tornadoes. Frequent rain.
May	85	75	2 tornadoes. Heavy rain.
June	83	78	1 tornado. Frequent heavy rains.
July	79	74	Uncertain, and light rains frequent.
August	79	74	Overcast and mild. Slight rains. Latter part fine.
September	81	77	Alternations of fine and rainy weather.
October	84	79	Early part fine, then rain. 1 tornado. Latter part fine.
November	86	81	2 tornadoes. Occasionally rain and westerly breezes.
December	86	82	1 tornado. Fine rains and moist. Westerly; fine and hazy.

The Thermometer suspended against the wall between windows looking south by east.

No. 8.

During the months of March, April, May, and June the barometer ranged as follows:—
29·90 in. to 30·05 in., or little more than the 10th of an inch.

There was no opportunity of observing the rise and fall of the barometer for the other months of the year, because the instrument from which those observations were taken did not arrive in these settlements until the middle of last February.

No. 9.

PREVAILING WINDS observed at Cape Coast during the Year.

December, January, February	The Harmattan, an east-north-east wind, and south-westerly winds. Land winds at night, varying west-by-north to north-north-west.
March	Tornadoes occur in March.
April, May, June	In the early part of the morning north-westerly; during the day south-westerly to westerly. Tornadoes in April.
July, August, September	Westerly and south-westerly winds. Land wind seldom blows during these months.
October, November	South-west breezes from the sea, with land winds from north-west.

GOLD COAST. The line of coast is generally washed by a terrific surf in the months of May, June, July, and August, but the ocean is often very rough for days together in March and the other months, boats and canoes being at such times prevented from putting to sea. While, however, the Harmattan wind prevails the sea is calm, and the industrious fishermen can at that season ply their vocation with safety, whereas at other times they are exposed to be overtaken by the storms and gusts of wind which are then so apt suddenly to appear in these latitudes.

Sub-Enclosure in Enclosure 1.

OBSERVATIONS on the ETUA TREE.

The tree which bears the leaves and fruit is called by the Fantees "Etua," and is found growing in several districts of these settlements. It attains a height of 18 feet or more, and belongs to the class aurantiaceæ. The fruit, which is in its transverse section of an oblate shape, hangs from the tree by a rounded cord-like stem, sixteen and a half inches long. The length of the fruit is sixteen and a half inches; circumference, in the centre, eleven inches, and at the upper and lower ends ten and a half inches; while the diameter is three three-fourth inches. A tough greenish brown rind, with dark spots, encloses the fruit, which closely adheres to the cortex. A vertical section shows that the close-grained nearly dried fleshy fruit is of a reddish brown colour, the seeds being imbedded in a fibrous and tenacious substance. In taste and flavour the fruit is strongly but not unpleasantly astringent; the rind less so; but the bark of the tree is strongly astringent. It seems to me highly probable that the Etua tree is closely allied to if not identical with the bael or bela tree. But whether this turn out to be the case or otherwise, I feel satisfied that the bark of the Etua tree will be found a medicine of great value in the treatment of diarrhœa and dysentery. I shall, however, take the earliest opportunity of submitting specimens of the Etua tree to practical botanists, to put the question beyond doubt, although in my own mind satisfied of the identity of the bela and Etua trees. Should my opinion be confirmed, it will show that the Hindoo and Negro race have equally esteemed it as a sovereign cure for dysentery for countless ages, although the former people generally prefer using the unripe fruit, while the latter only use the bark. On the Gold Coast the fruit is fetish, and is employed by the wily fetish men and women as a charm. When it is so used, the fresh fruit is painted in alternate stripes of red, white, and black. The colours are composed of ochre, chalk, and charcoal. Thus prepared, the fruit is transfixed to the earth, either in the pathways, house, or about the house of the party who consults the fetish man or woman, as may be directed. Sometimes the fruit is painted entirely black, and then dotted all over with red and white spots, when it is used in a similar manner. This ceremony is an invocation to the fetish to discover the remedy which is suitable to cure the disease of the person seeking advice from the fetish man or woman.

Enclosure No. 2.

Wesleyan Mission House, Cape Coast,
May 31, 1859.

SIR,

IN reply to your communication of the 2d instant, I beg to remark—

1. That the Wesleyan missionaries of this district, both European and native, continue to exert themselves to promote the best interests of the people in various parts of the Gold and Slave Coasts, and although their success is not commensurate to their desires they have the satisfaction of knowing that they are making some degree of progress.

2. That from opportunities which I have had of observing the working of the system of instruction hitherto pursued in the interior schools, I am of opinion that education will never be appreciated by the natives of the interior until it is imparted in their own language; and I hope soon to be able to take such measures as, I think, will give the matter a trial. I am fully aware that nothing beyond the merest elementary instruction in the native tongue can for some time be attempted; but I entertain no doubt as to ultimate results. I wish it to be understood that I do not consider these remarks altogether applicable to the schools in those towns on the coast where the English language is pretty generally spoken. In these, if the children are not taught exclusively in English it must at least continue to be the chief medium of instruction.

3. That I regret that the unsettled state of affairs at Dunqua has led to the closing of the school at that place; the people seeking, as I suppose, in this way to be revenged on the native missionary stationed there for not espousing their cause.

4. That I also regret that means are not available for connecting with the schools in one or two of the principal towns industrial establishments, on even a small scale, being persuaded that such establishments, judiciously conducted, would conduce to the advancement of civilization.

The accompanying schedules are similar to those with which I furnished you last year. They seem to me to be as nearly like the printed ones as circumstances will admit of. The numbers in the last column of the "Chapel Returns" correspond pretty nearly with those we are accustomed to furnish our committee for publication in their annual report. They embrace the accredited church members, the school children, and all who statedly or occasionally worship with us. They are not put forth as presenting the average attendance at our places of worship, but as exhibiting the numbers who, as stated above, either regularly or occasionally hear the Gospel through our agency.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. WEST,
Wesleyan General Superintendent.

To the Honourable Robert Dalrymple Ross,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

WESLEYAN MISSIONS' GOLD COAST CHAPEL RETURNS, 1858.

Name of Place.	Number of Chapels, &c.	Number of Persons it will contain.	Number occasionally attending.
Cape Coast	1 Chapel	About 600	Between 400 and 500
Beulah	1 do.	„ 300	About 300
Providence	1 do.	„ 150	„ 150
Abakrampa	1 do.	„ 250	„ 250
Akroful	1 do.	„ 250	„ 250
Abaka	1 Preaching house	-	„ 150
Dunkua	1 Chapel	„ 250	„ 250
Mampon	1 do.	„ 200	„ 200
Dix Cove	1 Preaching house	-	„ 100
Sekundi	1 Chapel	„ 200	„ 200
Anamaboe	1 do.	„ 400	„ 400
Assafa	1 do.	„ 200	„ 200
Salt Pond	1 Preaching house	-	„ 150
Kuntu	1 do.	-	„ 200
Arkrah	1 Chapel	„ 200	„ 200
Akrodu	1 Preaching house	-	„ 150
Maukasim	1 do.	-	„ 150
Essiamau	1 do.	-	„ 150
Domonasi	1 Chapel	„ 300	„ 300
Abuadzi	1 do.	„ 300	„ 300
Ayerudu	1 Preaching house	-	„ 70
Sunkua	1 do.	-	„ 70
Agaumeuru	1 do.	-	„ 60
Denkera	1 do.	-	„ 50
Akrah, James Town	1 Chapel	„ 400	„ 400
Winnebah	1 do.	„ 200	„ 200
Pram Pram	1 Preaching house	-	„ 150
Poni	1 do.	-	„ 50
	28		5,600

WESLEYAN MISSIONS' GOLD COAST SCHOOL RETURNS, 1858.

Name of Place.	Name of Master or Mistress.	Salaries of Masters or Mistress per Annum.	Salaries of Assistants.	Number of Scholars.			How supported.	Entire Expense.		
				Male.	Female.	Total.				
		£	£					£	s.	d.
Cape Coast	William Duncan	40	56	107	72	179	By funds supplied by the Wesleyan Methodist Missionary Society.	101	10	0
„	Jemima Anderson	30	10					65	2	6
Beulah	Henry Lemaire	12	6	16	2	18		46	0	0
Providence	-	-	-	7	5	12		13	0	0
Abakrampa	William Simeon	12	-	20	15	35		14	0	0
Akroful	Thos. Colecraft	40	12	20	7	27		54	0	0
Abaka	Samuel Gordon	24	9	9	11	20		34	10	0
Dunkua	H. F. Walters	15	12	38	6	44		29	0	0
Mampon	W. Z. Quaku	12	-	6	7	13		12	12	0
Dix Cove	Edwd. Mark	27	9	23	3	26		37	10	0
Sekundi	Charles Smith	50	9	29	3	32		61	0	0
Anamaboe	John D. Ekim	27	15	161	36	197		43	11	3
„	Mary Dawson	27	5					13	13	3
Assafa	R. Snyper	12	7	27	1	28		20	17	6
Salt Pond	Chas. Dawson	27	-	27	-	27		28	0	0
Kuntu	Joseph A. Fynn	50	12	15	1	16		63	8	4
Arkrah	John Sarbah	23	6	42	5	47		29	8	7
Akroda	John Sampson	18	-	8	-	8		18	0	0
Mankasim	John Job	9	-	-	-	-		9	7	7
Essiaman	J. Attah	9	-	-	-	-		9	0	0
Domonasi	Richd. Acquah	24	6	19	6	25		32	3	3
Abuadzi	J. G. Daniel	45	28	37	21	58		74	12	9
Ayurudu	Henry Bernasko	20	11	16	-	16		32	1	8
Denkera	John A. Smith	15	-	20	-	20		15	7	6
Akrah, James Town	-	45	6	116	23	139		57	8	6
Winnebah	-	23	-	17	-	17		24	15	0
Pram Pram	-	9	-	44	3	47		10	0	0
Poni	-	19	-	30	6	36		20	10	0
Aknamu	-	-	-	30	-	30		1	17	0
		664	219	884	233	1,117		972	6	8

ST. HELENA.

ST. HELENA.

No. 9.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor HAY to the Right Honourable Sir EDWARD BULWER LYTTON, Bart.

(No. 117.)

SIR, St. Helena, 28th May, 1859.

I HAVE the honour to transmit the St. Helena Blue Book for 1858.

2. These returns are satisfactory, but with the exception of the progress shown in the opening of fresh land for the growth of wheat and other cereals, and the very large increase in the number of children attending places of instruction, I find no point calling for especial notice for your information, beyond the observations submitted with my last annual report on the state of the colony.

3. The arrears of debt, which I found due on my assumption of the government, have been entirely liquidated, and the Agent General now holds an advance to the credit of the Island Treasury.

4. Enclosed are comparative statements of the estimated and actual revenue and expenditure for the past year.

I have, &c.

(Signed) E. H. DRUMMOND HAY.

To the Right Hon. Sir E. B. Lytton, Bart.,
&c. &c. &c.

1858.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of the ESTIMATED REVENUE of the ISLAND of ST. HELENA for the Year 1858, and the REVENUE RECEIVED in that Year, as shown by the ACCOUNTS made up from 1st January to 31st December.

Heads of Receipts.	Estimated Revenue.	Revenue received.	Decrease Receipts.	Increase Receipts.	Reference to Remarks.
Customs:	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
Imports	6,500 0 0	6,079 9 11	420 10 1	—	1
Wharfage	2,200 0 0	3,884 19 11	—	1,684 19 11	2
Tonnage	2,500 0 0	2,443 14 3	56 5 9	—	
Fees	700 0 0	618 0 0	82 0 0	—	
Warehouse Rent	250 0 0	235 13 2	14 6 10	—	
Permits	60 0 0	63 7 0	—	3 7 0	
Water	1,200 0 0	1,167 12 7	32 7 5	—	
Cranage	90 0 0	142 17 2	—	52 17 2	
	13,500 0 0	14,635 14 0	605 10 1	1,741 4 1	
Land Sales:					
Sale of Government Lands	—	76 2 6	—	76 2 6	
Land Revenue:					
Rents of Houses and Lands	1,200 0 0	1,199 4 2	0 15 10	—	
Auction Duties:					
Per Centage on Sales by Auction	210 0 0	610 11 6	—	400 11 6	3
Licences:					
Wine and Spirits	550 0 0	675 0 0	—	125 0 0	
Coffee and Ginger Beer	65 0 0	46 10 0	18 10 0	—	
Game	35 0 0	62 0 0	—	27 0 0	
Boats	300 0 0	280 15 0	19 5 0	—	
Attorneys	15 0 0	5 0 0	10 0 0	—	
Auctioneers	30 0 0	15 0 0	15 0 0	—	
Notaries	5 0 0	10 0 0	—	5 0 0	
	1,000 0 0	1,094 5 0	62 15 0	157 0 0	
Totals of Heads carried forward	15,910 0 0	17,616 17 2	669 0 11	2,374 18 1	

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of the ESTIMATED REVENUE, &c.—*continued.* ST. HELENA.

Heads of Receipts	Estimated Revenue.	Revenue received.	Decrease Receipts.	Increase Receipts.	Reference to Remarks.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
Totals of Heads brought forward	15,910 0 0	17,616 17 2	669 0 11	2,374 18 1	
Assessed Taxes:					
Carriages, Carts, Horses, &c., &c.	340 0 0	323 5 0	16 15 0	—	
Postage	200 0 0	158 18 3	41 1 9	—	
Fines, Forfeitures, and Fees of Courts:—Judicial	20 0 0	27 2 6	—	7 2 6	
Police	70 0 0	35 16 0	34 4 0	—	
Militia	10 0 0	6 7 6	3 12 6	—	
	100 0 0	69 6 0	37 16 6	7 2 6	
Fees of Office	15 0 0	15 18 6	—	0 18 6	
Sale of Government Property:					
Medicines	10 0 0	66 6 7	—	56 6 7	
Unserviceable Stores	5 0 0	5 9 0	—	0 9 0	
	15 0 0	71 15 7	—	56 15 7	
Reimbursements in Aid of Expenses:					
Ration Stoppages from Soldiers in Gaol	30 0 0	17 18 0	12 2 0	—	
Work done in Gaol	10 0 0	30 8 8	—	20 8 8	
Hospital Stoppages	150 0 0	195 0 6	—	45 0 6	
	190 0 0	243 7 2	12 2 0	65 9 2	
Miscellaneous Receipts:					
Overpayments received	5 0 0	—	5 0 0	—	
Special Receipts:					
Advances on account of Board of Trade	—	90 0 0	—	90 0 0	
Amount recovered from Contractor for damaged Meat	—	2 0 0	—	2 0 0	
Interest on Loan	—	80 0 0	—	80 0 0	
[Not including Widows and Orphans Fund.]	16,775 0 0	18,670 7 8	781 16 2	2,677 3 10	
		Deduct Decrease	- -	781 16 2	
		Net Increase	- - - £	1,895 7 8	

Saint Helena Audit Office,
31st March 1859.

R. C. PENNELL,
Auditor.

REMARKS.

1. Decreased importation of Spirits and Wine.
2. Increased quantity of Goods landed.
3. Increased amount of Sales by Auction.

ST. HELENA.

1858.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of the ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE of the ISLAND of ST. HELENA for the Year 1858, and the ACTUAL EXPENDITURE as taken from the ACCOUNTS made up from 1st January to the 31st December.

Heads of Establishments.	Estimated Expenditure.	Actual Expenditure.	Decrease Expenditure.	Inc Expenditure.	Reference to Remarks.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
Governor	2,078 0 0	2,102 16 9	—	24 16 9	
Colonial Secretary and Auditor	1,269 0 0	1,117 7 9	151 8 3	—	
Treasurer	565 0 0	499 10 0	65 10 0	—	
Surveyor and Civil Engineer	1,189 14 2	1,172 19 2	16 15 0	—	
Collector of Customs	1,427 4 2	1,517 8 5½	—	90 4 3½	1
Postmaster	180 0 0	225 16 8	—	45 16 8	2
Supreme Court	1,295 0 0	1,190 0 0	105 0 0	—	3
Summary Court	1,244 10 0	1,242 10 11½	1 19 0½	—	
Ecclesiastical Establishment	715 1 0	705 17 0	9 4 0	—	
Education	530 0 0	490 0 0	40 0 0	—	
Medical	944 2 6	935 18 6	8 4 0	—	
Gaol	228 18 0	341 10 0	—	112 12 0	3
Militia	465 0 7	441 0 2½	24 0 4½	—	
Pensions	730 17 1	366 4 2	364 12 11	—	
Revenue Services, exclusive of Establishments	16 0 0	16 3 3	—	0 3 3	
Administration of Justice, ditto	80 0 0	72 0 6	7 19 6	—	
Hospitals, ditto	330 0 0	1,096 7 9½	—	266 7 9½	4
Police and Gaols	435 0 0	427 6 3½	7 13 8½	—	
Rent	49 10 9	49 10 9	—	—	
Conveyance of Mails	2 10 0	—	2 10 0	—	
Works and Buildings	1,135 15 0	1,197 7 4½	—	61 12 4½	5
Roads, Streets, and Bridges	600 0 0	582 7 7	17 12 5	—	
Miscellaneous Services	—	—	—	—	
Interest	—	—	—	—	
Drawbacks and Refund of Duties	5 0 0	7 10 0	—	2 10 0	
Special Disbursements	140 0 0	3,073 2 1	—	2,933 2 1	6
[Not including Widows and Orphans Fund.]	16,156 3 3	18,870 19 3	822 9 2½	3,537 5 2½	
		Deduct Decrease	- -	822 9 2½	
		Net Increase	- £	2,714 16 0	

Saint Helena Audit Office,
31st March 1859.

R. C. PENNELL,
Auditor.

REMARKS.

1. Increase of Collector's Salary.
2. Increase of Postmaster's Salary.
3. The Marshal's Salary transferred from Supreme Court to Gaol Pay List.
4. Increase of Patients.
5. Increase Expenditure for Drainage.
6. Remittances to Agent General and Advances on account Board of Trade, &c.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

No. 10.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant General Wynyard to his Grace the Duke of Newcastle.

(No. 43.)

My Lord Duke, Cape Town, December 19, 1859.

In compliance with the standing instructions of your Grace's department, I have the honour to transmit, herewith, the Blue Book for this Colony, for the year 1858.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. WYNYARD,
Lieut.-Governor.

His Grace the Duke of Newcastle.
&c. &c. &c.

NATAL.

No. 11.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant Governor Scott to the Right Honourable Sir Edward B. Lytton, Bart.

(No. 65.)

Sir, Government House, Natal, 20th July 1859.

I have the honour to forward the Blue Book of this colony for the past year, 1858.

2. It is a satisfaction that, in transmitting these statistical details of the colony, I am again enabled to report a continued increasing prosperity. The various returns contained in this Blue Book, when compared with those of previous years, and estimated relatively with the youthful status of the colony, will show a not unsatisfactory progress.

Finance.

3. With regard to the financial position of the colony, it will be seen that an increase has taken place in the revenue; that collected during the past year being 47,043*l.*, and during the former year 1857, 45,733*l.*, as shown in the statements of revenue and expenditure. These statements do not however exhibit the real financial condition of the colony, nor its actual improvement. They give the public accounts of the colony, in which are necessarily included many items, which do not in truth represent items of actual receipt. Thus, for instance, deposits, advances, loans, and all sales of land made on account of certificates of drawback, are, financially speaking, of a fictitious character. The following Table shows the revenue collected during each year since 1850, with the above-mentioned extraneous items excluded:—

Actual Revenue.

	£		£
1850	28,410	1855	28,463
1851	26,519	1856	29,769
1852	25,717	1857	41,065
1853	28,081	1858	42,815
1854	28,517		

NATAL.

4. It will be observed that little or no increase took place during the first seven years. The sudden rise in the year 1857 is due to the larger receipts under the following heads:—

1857.	£
Increase in Customs	4,385
„ Land Revenue	1,023
„ Transfer Dues	780
„ Stamps	367
„ Taxes	464
„ Postage	406
„ Fines, Forfeitures, &c.	3,163

The increase under this last head of service in 1857 was large and accidental, being chiefly obtained from fines imposed on the tribe of a rebellious native chief. If, therefore, in addition to the other fictitious items withdrawn from the revenue of that year as before mentioned, this accidental increase be also deducted, and similar deductions be made for the years 1856 and 1858, the actual revenue for these three last years, collected from permanent sources, will be as follows:—

For 1856	£29,124
„ 1857	37,527
„ 1858	40,860.

General Commerce.

5. The improvement in the general commerce of the colony is exhibited in the subjoined tabular statement, showing from the year 1850 to the present time the annual value of the imports and the exports, dividing these latter into "Colonial" and "not Colonial," and also giving the amount of custom dues collected in each of these years:—

Year.	Value of Imports.			Duties.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1850	111,015	11	5	10,911	13	0
1851	125,462	6	8	12,122	19	7
1852	103,701	5	4	10,003	12	0
1853	98,534	13	2	9,800	3	4
1854	112,492	6	11	10,816	1	8
1855	86,551	9	9	8,612	2	6
1856	102,512	4	7	10,227	10	4
1857	184,549	0	0	14,626	12	6
1858	172,832	0	0	15,904	10	11

Year.	Value of Exports.								
	Colonial.			Not Colonial.			Total.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1850	15,613	12	3	1,492	13	0	17,106	5	3
1851	17,423	10	0	4,393	15	0	21,817	5	0
1852	20,164	16	6	7,680	18	3	27,845	14	9
1853	26,694	0	10	9,764	15	0	36,458	15	10
1854	37,555	1	0	6,106	1	0	43,661	2	0
1855	45,126	14	4	6,946	14	0	52,073	8	4
1856	53,931	2	5	2,631	11	0	56,562	13	5
1857	77,844	6	9	4,652	4	6	82,496	11	3
1858	90,882	0	0	9,705	0	0	100,587	0	0

6. From this statement we gather that the value of the annual imports has increased from 111,000*l.*, in 1850, to nearly 173,000*l.* in 1858; that the receipt of customs during the same period has risen from about 11,000*l.* to nearly 16,000*l.*; and that the yearly value of the exports, which in 1850 was 17,000*l.* only, is now 100,000*l.*

Annual Development of Resources.

7. The annual development of the internal resources of the colony is shown generally also by the above Table in the column of "Colonial" exports. In 1850 these were only of the value of 15,613*l.*, until, gradually increasing in each intermediate year, they have in 1858 reached the value of 90,882*l.* During the same period the exports "not Colonial," have fluctuated in value; they consist chiefly of wool coming from the neighbouring republic, and of ivory brought from the Zulu country, and the native tribes further inland. These will, no doubt, continue to increase with the extension of the interior trade for which this colony, from its geographical position, offers a most favourable outlet; but no estimate of its probable increase could now be made. Much depends upon the personal energy of traders; and more, perhaps, upon the right government of the Dutch republics, which at present cannot be said to be on a solid basis.

8. The development of the internal resources of the colony is, however, more particularly shown in the agricultural and other similar returns; but these, from the difficulty of collecting accurate information, cannot be pronounced to be free from errors. In my former report, transmitting the Blue Book for 1857, I slightly sketched the agricultural capabilities of Natal, and more particularly its fitness for the growth and manufacture of sugar and other semitropical products. In this report it is, perhaps, sufficient to offer a few figures illustrating the advance made in the growth or the manufacture of staple products. And first as regards sugar.

9. In the year 1855 there was exported of this product to the value of 19*l.* 5*s.*; in 1856, 484*l.*; in 1857, 2,290*l.*, and during the past year, 4067*l.* But these figures, although indicative of progress, do not bear any reference to the quantity produced, the chief portion of which is consumed in the colony or by the Dutch population of the republics. During the past year there was produced of sugar 527 tons, the estimated value of which was upwards of 19,000*l.*

10. The returns of the customs and those under the head of agriculture show that arrowroot is next in importance to sugar, in the yearly extension which has been made in its manufacture. The export of this colonial product has gradually risen from 97*l.* in value in 1854, to 999*l.* in 1855, to 1,826*l.* in 1856; 3,135*l.* in 1857, and to 5,464*l.* in 1858. But, as in the case of sugar, the value of these yearly exports does not convey an estimate of the quantity manufactured in the colony. During the past year there was made 4,370 cwt. being of the estimated value of 10,706*l.*

11. The yearly increase in wool is for reasons which I stated in my former report but slow. Sheep are, however, gradually increasing in number, and their importance is now fully appreciated. In 1855 the number of sheep within the colony was 10,000; in 1856, 18,000; in 1857, 37,000; and in 1858, 86,902.

12. Horned cattle and horses have decreased in number. This has arisen partly from exportation; but the chief cause is to be found in a malady which yearly prevails in Natal, apparently only differing one year from another in the greater or lesser tract of country through which it passes, and in the degree of fatality which marks its annual advent amongst this kind of farming stock.

13. In my report accompanying the Blue Book of 1857, I alluded to the efforts I was making to introduce the growth of cotton amongst our large native population. I am not prepared to offer any statistics on this cultivation; it is still an experiment; but so far as it has gone I have every reason to look for success. There can be little question of the peculiar fitness of the climate for its growth, while at the same time its cultivation is suited to the mode of life and the rude agriculture of the natives.

14. The few details which I have given above of the advance made in developing the natural and internal resources of this colony do not, I am aware, present such a large change in figures as marks the steps yearly made by older colonies; but, estimated by their own relative value, they none the less exhibit a gratifying annual progress. It is not uninteresting to note that the quantity of sugar and arrowroot manufactured during the past year more than equals in value the entire exports of 1852.

Public Works.

15. The works formerly begun, with the purpose of improving the harbour of this colony by the removal of the sand-bar at its entrance, having being suspended until Her Majesty's Government should have given their approval of the plans, no extensive works have been carried on during the past year; the labours of the engineer department having been directed chiefly to the construction of new and the repair of the old roads. These, however, are perhaps the most important branch of public works in Natal, as

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bearing most closely on the prosperity of the colony. The following table shows the amount expended under the head of roads and bridges during each year from 1850 to the present time :—

	£		£
In 1850	1,314	1855	1,452
1851	2,080	1856	2,671
1852	1,526	1857	2,523
1853	1,651	1858	3,693
1854	2,415		

16. These sums are small ; but I trust each year will permit a larger sum to be appropriated for this service. The amount disbursed is not regulated by the wants of the colony in this respect, but is limited to such an outlay as the yearly revenue and the many other pressing calls upon it will permit. Small, however, as the annual amounts expended for this service have been the gradual improvement made in our internal lines of communication has been not inconsiderable, and especially when the natural difficulties presented by the very broken, rugged, and mountainous features of the country are duly regarded. Not only have the old roads been improved, but new lines have been projected and are now being constructed, by which a larger and easier intercourse is obtained between the different parts of the colony. A new ascent of the Drakensberg has been constructed, and a corresponding deviation of a portion of the road leading into the Orange Free State has been made, by which the distance has been much shortened. This improvement will have a beneficial effect by the greater facilities it will afford to the trade existing between this colony and that state.

17. Much however remains to be done in this branch of the service ; few bridges have as yet been constructed, owing to the large outlay which these works require, and for years to come, therefore, as large an appropriation as the finances of the colony will permit must be devoted to the construction and the improvement of roads and bridges.

Land Grants.

18. It will be observed from the returns relating to the crown lands, that a large number of grants have been made during the past year. These have been made under a scheme of making grants subject to a moderate annual quit-rent, and under a condition of occupation enforced by an annual fine or rather an increased amount of the quit-rent in cases of non-occupation of the lands granted. The change was introduced in 1856, and was modified in the following year. It was conceived that under the peculiar circumstances of this colony, it would be expedient to give increased facilities in the acquirement of farms with the view of giving an impetus to agricultural industry, and of drawing immigrants into the country. The scheme has, however, been considered objectionable, and has recently been abolished ; and lands can now only be obtained under the formerly existing regulation of sale by public auction at an upset price of four shillings per acre.

Emigration.

19. Some years back a plan of emigration in connexion with this colony was established by a private individual, and a very considerable body of immigrants were introduced under it. It was, however, found to be defective and unsuited to Natal ; and for this and other reasons it was abandoned. From that time, although the necessity for an increase to the population still remained, and the great advantages offered by the country to industrial emigrants was evident, immigration almost ceased. With the view of again drawing the attention of the public to Natal as a field for emigrants, a small sum is now yearly voted for the purpose. The plan pursued by this Government is to invite immigration through the colonists themselves by providing a passage on easy terms to such of their friends or relatives, as they may desire to bring out. As an introduction to a more extensive scheme this has been found to work well. Those colonists who have been successful in improving their own circumstances have readily availed themselves of the opportunity to bring out their relations or friends, and thus a gentle stream of immigration has been again obtained of persons selected by the experience of the colonists themselves, and therefore more likely to be suited to the country and its opening prospects and to the present requirements of the community.

Mail Steamer.

20. The establishment in 1857 of a mail steam communication between this and the Cape of Good Hope has also been useful in affording a regular and direct communication with England, and in bringing this colony into greater notice amongst the commercial

classes. A proposal has also been made for the establishment of a line of steamers to run between the colonies of the Cape of Good Hope and the Mauritius, calling at this port. Such a line of steamers would, no doubt, largely promote the interests of Natal by giving it a direct steam communication with India and various other colonial possessions of the Crown. But this is, I fear, at present somewhat premature.

Native Tribes.

21. The native tribes dwelling in this colony being so vastly superior in number to the civilized inhabitants, and being at present the only source whence the whole of the labour employed in developing the resources of the colony is drawn, they cannot in a consideration of the present and future prospects of Natal be passed over. In my report on the Blue Book for 1857, I offered a few remarks on the subject of native labour, and I have also alluded to it in my other despatches; it is, perhaps, therefore superfluous to re-enter upon it in this report. It is a satisfaction to me that I can report the continued peaceful disposition and the contented condition of our native tribes. In the reports made to me by the different resident magistrates, each reports that there is a total absence of any excitement amongst the tribes dwelling within his jurisdiction; that all have paid the annual hut tax readily and cheerfully; and that one and all continue to show a willing obedience to orders and a satisfactory subordination to our Government.

I have, &c.

To the Right Hon. Sir E. B. Lytton, Bart., &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) J. SCOTT.

AUSTRALIAN COLONIES AND NEW ZEALAND.

New South Wales.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

No. 12.

No. 12.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir W. Denison, K.C.B., to his Grace the Duke of Newcastle.

(No. 89.)

Government House, Sydney,
September 23, 1859.

My Lord Duke,

I have the honour to forward herewith the "Statistical Register of New South Wales," which has been compiled by the Registrar General of the Colony, and which it is believed will furnish in a form as complete as the old Blue Book, and more available for the general information of the public, such statistical facts as it is possible under present circumstances to collect.

The Report from the Registrar General, which forms the preface to this volume, embraces such a general review of all the subjects therein brought under consideration as will render unnecessary any comments or remarks on my part. I trust that your Grace will approve of the alteration in the form which has been adopted; which, while it embraces all the essential constituents of the Blue Book, even to the names of the persons holding office under the Government, has been compiled at a much less cost to the Colony, and being printed instead of written is more available for reference.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. DENISON.

His Grace the Duke of Newcastle.
&c. &c. &c.

Encl. in No 12.

Enclosure in No. 12.

Registrar General's Report to the Honourable Charles Cowper, Esquire, Colonial Secretary, &c. &c. &c.

Registrar General's Office, Sydney,
August 29, 1859.

Sir,

In presenting to you the new "Statistical Register" of New South Wales for the year 1858, I purpose prefacing the volume with a few remarks, to illustrate the more prominent and important of the tabular statements contained in it.

In the first place, it may be desirable that I should explain shortly the reasons which induced me to propose, and the Government to sanction, the changes which will be apparent to every one whose business or whose curiosity may have led them to look into former "Blue Books," both in the form of the volume itself and many of its contents.

2. The great bulk which the volume for some years past had attained (varying from 850 to 1,020 pages of matter, partly printed and partly in manuscript) rendered it impossible, except at great expense, to do more than prepare two copies for transmission to the Secretary of State, and one copy to be kept of record in the Colony, after lying during the session on the table of the Legislature. It had been the practice to prepare a smaller volume of condensed tables, under the head of "Statistics," for general circulation in the Colony. Upon assuming the duty of collecting and compiling the returns for the past year, I was invited to make suggestions for reducing the "Blue Book" to such reasonable limits as would bring it within the compass of the printing press; and it occurred to me that it would be desirable at the same time to amalgamate the two publications into one volume, under a new title; propositions to accomplish these objects were accordingly made to, and approved by the Government; and the result is now submitted in the shape of a neatly printed volume of 191 pages. Much extraneous and comparatively useless matter has been eliminated, many of the tables have been condensed and others amalgamated, whilst in some few instances the information has been conveyed in a more full, and I trust a more satisfactory, form than hitherto.

3. Although greatly modified, and I hope improved, it is by no means to be supposed that the volume is considered perfect—there is still room for the pruning-knife. The tabular statements are in many instances capable of further improvement, and as familiarity with the work and experience go on increasing, it may be hoped that the information collected will be conveyed in a more compendious, and perhaps, more simple form than I have been able to accomplish on the present occasion. The great difficulty lies in the collecting of the information so as to ensure that perfect accuracy which alone imparts value to statistics; but on this subject I have already addressed you in a separate letter, and I trust that the

great importance to which statistical science has attained, as illustrative of the condition and progress of society, in its bearings upon legislation more particularly, and the deep interest with which statistical information regarding the Australian Colonies is looked for, not only in the mother country, but over the whole continent of Europe, will lead to a higher recognition of its value than it has hitherto been thought worthy of in this Colony.

Establishments.

4. I will now proceed to notice such of the tables as may seem to require comment or explanation for their elucidation. The Civil Establishments occupy 36 pages, irrespective of the index of names, which was added afterwards by desire of the Right Honourable the Secretary of State. The frequent inquiries made at the Colonial Office by the friends of persons employed in the public service seemed to render this addition desirable. The return embraces the names of all officers in the public service, from his Excellency the Governor General to Clerks of Petty Sessions. By the suppression of six columns of superfluous information the return has been reduced to one-half its former dimensions.

5. The ecclesiastical return in its present nominal shape is one of questionable utility, and might probably be dispensed with on a future occasion. Like the return previously mentioned, it has been reduced one half in bulk by the suppression of useless matter. Some of the denominations, the Wesleyan Methodists particularly, have been backward in furnishing the necessary information; and I may here state that one chief cause of the repugnance of the clergy to furnishing the information arose from the inquisitorial nature of one of the inquiries; I allude to the amount of fees received during the year, a question with which the State has properly no concern, and which has been considered by the clergy generally as a most offensive interference with their private emoluments. I did not hesitate to forego this inquiry.

Education.

6. Under the head of "Education" the most noticeable feature is the addition of 103 schools to those in operation the year before. Of this number 11 are denominational; viz., 7 Church of England and 4 Roman Catholic. The National Board have, by the addition of a number of non-vested schools, added 38 to their number, whilst of private schools there would seem to be an addition of no less than 54. As regards the number of scholars, the increase will be found as follows, viz.:—

Denominational - - - - - -	936
National - - - - - -	1,838
Private - - - - - -	1,114
Orphan and destitute - - - -	37
Sydney grammar - - - - -	78
	4,003
Less decrease* - - -	3
	4,000
Add, 1857 - - - -	29,236
Total, 1858 - - - -	33,236

The Denominational schools average 76 children; the National 78. The Denominational system cost the State at the rate of 1*l.* 2*s.* 7¾*d.* per head; the National at the rate of 2*l.* 16*s.* 9½*d.* The amount of voluntary contributions per head was about 4*s.* under the Denominational, and about 6*s.* under the National system.

The detailed return introduced into former "Blue Books" has been withdrawn, the information being supplied in the annual reports laid before Parliament, and therefore considered unnecessary of repetition in this publication. The children of educable age,—by which I mean the usual age within which parents send their children to school,—say from 5 to 12 years,—may be estimated at 48,000. The children educating are 33,236; say that 1,236 only of these are over 12 years of age, we shall have 32,000 to deduct from 48,000, which leaves the large number of 16,000 to the chances of home education, or of no education at all, which I fear, in most cases, is nearer the truth.

My efforts to collect returns of Sunday schools completely failed, no records were to be obtained that could furnish information of a useful or reliable character; but I hope to be able to collect statistics for a future occasion that will throw light upon this interesting and important means of instruction.

Monetary.

7. Under the head of exchanges, monies, &c., will be found some interesting returns, showing the amount of coin and bullion in the Colony; the amount of paper currency in circulation; the amount of deposits, &c. in the savings' banks; and the quantity and value of gold received at the Mint and exported from the Colony. The decennial return of coin and bullion in the Colony, at page 74, shows an increase on the previous year of 394,837*l.* 12*s.* 5*d.*, whilst the paper currency in circulation was 81,728*l.* less at the end of 1858 than it was at the end of 1857; and taking the average of the year, the amount of notes in circulation was less by 48,802*l.* than it was the year before. The rate of interest paid by the banks to depositors, ranged as high as 6 per cent. on deposits for 12 months, which is a remarkable feature in the history of banking in this Colony, whilst the rates of discount ruled, on the average, higher than they had done for several years past, reaching as high as 9 per cent. on bills having over 125 days currency.

* University, decrease - 5
St. Paul's College, add - 2
3

NEW SOUTH WALES.

8. The rate of interest allowed to depositors by the savings' bank was 5 per cent., and the interest on moneys lent on mortgage was 7 per cent.; but, in consequence of the high rates of interest offered for fixed deposits by some of the large banking institutions, the trustees restricted the loans upon mortgage within narrower limits than usual. The following table may be instructive, as illustrative of the working of this interesting institution, and of the fluctuations in the savings of the industrial population :—

Year.	Population.	Number of Depositors.	Amount of Deposits.	Average Sums deposited.	Proportion of Depositors to Population.	Sums deposited per head of Population.
			£ s. d.	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
1856	286,873	10,424	623,489 3 7	59 16 3	1 in 27	2 3 5
1857	305,487	11,269	638,480 11 0	56 13 2	1 in 27	2 1 9
1858	342,062	11,321	579,931 17 6	51 4 6	1 in 30	1 13 10

Gold.

9. The returns of gold received by escort from the different gold fields of the Colony, and exported (*Vide* page 77), will be found to possess much interest.

The quantity received by escort does not, however, comprise the total production of the Colony, some being sent by post and some by private hands.

The return of gold received for coinage at the Mint during the year, shows an excess of 20,443 ozs., of the value of 76,105*l.*, known to be the produce of our own gold fields, over and above what was received by escort, to which, if we add 13,973 ozs. on which duty on export was paid at the Customs during the year, we shall obtain 286,798 ozs. as the total produce of the gold fields of the Colony, and if we estimate this quantity at the Mint value, namely, 3*l.* 17*s.* per oz., it will give us 1,104,175*l.* as the value of the gold produce for the year 1858.

The total value of the coin and bullion exported was 407,521*l.* in excess of the export of the previous year. The difference in the value of the exports over the Mint receipts for the year was 177,647*l.* This may be accounted for, partly by the exportation of English sovereigns; partly by the export to Melbourne, of Sydney sovereigns, at the beginning of the year, in return for bullion imported to the Mint at the close of 1857; and partly, by the exportation to China, of gold brought down by the Chinese diggers, which would only appear in the Customs returns of exports.

10. It would hardly be proper in this cursory review of the gold returns, to pass over entirely without notice the disappointment occasioned to the thousands who, by exaggerated rumours of the discovery of rich auriferous deposits on the River Fitz Roy, were tempted to leave their occupations, and desert their families in search of fortunes. The sudden repute, and as sudden failure, of the Canoona gold diggings, form too remarkable a feature in the history of this year to be soon forgotten; but although the disappointment and distress occasioned by their failure were great, they have not been altogether barren of good results. The port of Rockhampton has been established, and a very rich district on our extreme northern frontier, which, under ordinary circumstances might have attracted little attention for some years to come, except as an outlet for pastoral enterprise, has been opened up. The existence of rich gold deposits on the western slopes of the ranges between Port Curtis and Broad Sound, is still believed in by many people who have had the opportunity of examining the auriferous indications with which the country abounds.

Gold received for Coinage.			Number of Sovereigns and Half-Sovereigns coined.		Bars and Ingots issued.	
Locality.	Quantity.	Value.	Sovereigns.	Half-Sovereigns.	Quantity.	Value.
	Ounces.	£ s. d.			Ounces.	£ s. d.
New South Wales -	272,825·65	1,050,339 12 2				
Victoria - - -	61,996·31	252,387 11 2				
New Zealand - -	7,026·20	26,687 5 2				
California - - -	60·48	211 15 8				
American and other coin	631·89	2,407 18 11				
Total - -	342,540·53	1,332,034 3 1	1,101,500	483,000	14,927·92	58,125 11 10

Manufactures.

11. The returns of manufactories, &c., with the exception of refined sugars, show a satisfactory increase on the returns of the previous year, but present no striking features worthy of special notice.

The slaughter of sheep and cattle for tallow is happily shown at page 83, to be reduced within very insignificant limits, and, looking to the decrease exhibited in the live stock return, at page 111, will probably very soon disappear from amongst the statistics altogether. It has been chiefly confined to what may now be termed "Queensland," and is still the readiest, if not the only available means, of realising a return from the large herds of cattle depasturing in the northern districts.

Mining.

12. The produce of the coal mines of the Colony is for the first time given in print, in the detailed form in which it will be found at page 84. Irrespective of the first half-year's produce of the mine at Raymond Terrace, which could not be ascertained, there is an increase of nearly 16,000 tons on the

production of the year before. The Australian Agricultural Company seem to have pursued their operations with great activity and success, having exceeded their produce of the previous year by 25,862 tons,* whilst owing to the temporary suspension of their operations, the Newcastle Coal and Copper Company have produced about 20,000 tons less.

The increased production of the Wollongong mines is a very noticeable feature in the return. In 1857, it was 6,200 tons,—in 1858, it was 16,218 tons. The † Hexham mine had made a very successful development, whilst that at ‡ Maitland has fallen off.

13. The decennial return which follows that just noticed, exhibits a rapid development of this important branch of industry, during the past six years. In 1852, the produce of the coal mines was 67,404 tons,—in 1858, the produce was 216,397 tons.

As an article of inter-colonial trade, coal forms no inconsiderable item. During the year under review the Custom-house returns show an export of 113,527 tons, of the value of 88,956*l.*, viz.:—

To Victoria	71,096	tons.
„ South Australia	10,493	„
„ Tasmania	14,301	„
„ New Zealand	5,598	„
	101,488	
To foreign countries	12,039	
Total	113,527	tons.

In 1852 the export was	24,794	tons.
„ 1853 „	51,501	„
„ 1854 „	59,297	„
„ 1855 „	61,484	„
„ 1856 „	84,086	„
„ 1857 „	96,457	„
„ 1858 „	113,527	„

The progress of our coal mining operations and of our export trade in coal, is thus shown to be highly satisfactory, and affords reasonable grounds of confidence, that when our gold fields are exhausted, we have a rich inheritance only waiting for development.

14. With regard to ores of copper and iron, mining operations seem to be at a stand-still, except in the Orange District, where, however, no great activity seems latterly to have prevailed, but cheap labour and facility of transport only are wanted to develop the rich mineral resources with which the Colony abounds.

Land.

15. The return of land sales shows an increase of 30,300*l.* on the previous year, but did not reach the amount realised in 1854, 1855, or 1856.

It seems that a total quantity of 169,214 acres was alienated at an average rate of 1*l.* 9*s.* 4 *d.* per acre; of this quantity 60,434 acres, or nearly one-third, were taken under the pre-emptive right at the minimum price of 20*s.*

I have arranged the old established counties by themselves, under the head of "Settled," and the new counties under the head of Pastoral Districts, in order to show the large development the urban interests are making in localities which a few years ago resounded only to the bleating of sheep or the lowing of cattle.

16. In connexion with the returns last noticed will be found a return of mortgages on land, to which is appended, for the first time, a return of mortgages discharged, but these present no features calling for special notice.

The return of liens on wool, which follows, shows a large reduction in the number of liens, and a decrease in the amount secured, compared with either of the three previous years, which may be assumed to betoken the thriving condition of the great pastoral interests of the Colony, whilst the increase in the mortgages on live stock, to the extent of 312,944*l.* on the year before, betokens increased activity in the sale and transfer of pastoral properties. The discharges of mortgages on live stock will be found to amount to over one-third the sum lent.

Postal.

17. If the Post Office returns afford any certain evidence of the advancement or retrogression of a country, I think the figures exhibited at page 89 afford unmistakeable symptoms of internal improvement and development; but as postal matters are now made the subject of an annual report from the Postmaster-General, I shall pass on to the notice of what follows.

Crime.

18. The criminal returns will be found to occupy pages 90 to 95. They are published at greater length than has hitherto been the practice. Tables of commitment for trial, both in the Supreme Court and Courts of Quarter Sessions, have been introduced for the first time. The public are thus furnished with the means of comparing the amount of crime to the population in this and other countries, which the returns of convictions alone never could enable them to do. A minute analysis of the facts set forth in these tables is beyond the scope of this report—they would furnish matter for a volume; I must content myself with noticing one or two leading features. At page 92, the two lower

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* The produce of the A. A. Company's mines at Newcastle, during the three years 1856 to 1858, was 249,799 tons.

† 1857 - 40 tons.
1858 - 8,010 „

‡ 1857 - 26,038 tons.
1858 - 5,332 „

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tables exhibit the number of commitments for trial, and the number of convictions at the criminal sessions of the Supreme Court. It will be seen on comparison that there were,—

	Commitments.	Convictions.
For felonies - - -	234	119
Offences against the person -	62	35
Offences against property - -	125	61
Miscellaneous felonies - -	47	23
Misdemeanors - - -	53	33
Capital offences - - -	33	9

Thus we learn that, excluding capital offences, rather more than one-half the commitments for trial for serious offences were brought home to the parties, whilst of capital offences less than one-third were prosecuted to conviction.

19. Turning next to the commitments and convictions in the Courts of Quarter Sessions, at pages 93, 94, we find that out of 382 commitments for felonies, there were 181 convictions; and out of 111 misdemeanors there were 82 convictions; taking the two classes of offences together, the convictions obtained in the Courts of Quarter Sessions form a rather larger proportion to the commitments than was obtained at the criminal sessions of the Supreme Court.

The decennial return of the number of convictions in the two Courts, although slightly in excess of 1857, manifests a considerable decrease on any one of the eight previous years; and if the number of convictions could be taken as any indication of the decrease of crime, this fact would furnish no mean subject of gratification. We are not to suppose that the laws were more laxly administered during the last two years than they were during the previous eight, nor that the vigilance of the police was relaxed: on this hypothesis, therefore, it might be assumed that as regards serious offences, the moral character of the community has been progressive with its material advancement. Unfortunately in no country, much less in this, is the number of convictions to be taken as a fair test of the moral state of a nation, and we are precluded by the absence of proper data from making comparisons with former years as to the comparative degree of crime which the present returns exhibit; I must therefore content myself with comparing the number of commitments in New South Wales in 1858, with those of the only two earlier periods of the Colony's history which I have been able to discover.

20. In 1833, with a population of 60,861, of which 24,543 were bond, there were 727 commitments for trial for serious offences, that is, for felonies and misdemeanors; out of these I find there were 135 convictions in the Supreme Court, and 110 in the Courts of Quarter Sessions. The commitments being 1 in 83 in proportion to the population, and the convictions 1 in 248. In 1836 again I find the commitments were as 1 in 72 of the population, but the convictions are not stated, there being no returns from the Courts of Quarter Sessions either for that or the two following years. In this year, the free persons were not quite as 2 to 1 to the bond.

In 1858, with a population of, say 325,000 (for the purpose of comparison), we find 813 commitments, that is about 1 in 400 in proportion to the population, and 415 convictions, that is, not quite 1 in 800 of the population. So far therefore as these facts go, we have cause for rejoicing; but it is to be regretted that the criminal records of the Colony do not furnish data for the proper elucidation of this interesting inquiry, so that we might compare the gradual diminution of crime with the disappearance of the convict element from amongst us.

21. Referring to the criminal statistics of Great Britain and Ireland, the following table will show the proportion of commitments and convictions to the population in each division of the mother country, as compared with New South Wales. Taking the mean of three years, 1854 to 1856, the proportion of commitments in Great Britain and Ireland to the population was 1·32, and the convictions 0·92 per 1,000. In New South Wales, in the year 1858, the proportion of commitments was 2·37, and of convictions 1·21 per 1,000. The mean proportion of convictions to commitments was in Great Britain and Ireland, 69·7 per cent.; in New South Wales 51·0 per cent. (*Vide* table below.)

The statistics of neighbouring Colonies do not afford data for comparison with these results, and I regret that from insufficient data, the inquiry cannot be carried further on the present occasion.

	Committed for Trial.		Convicted.			Acquitted.
	Total Males and Females.	Proportion to Population.	Total Males and Females.	Proportion to Population.	Proportion to committed.	Males and Females.
		per 1,000.		per 1,000.	per cent.	
England and Wales— Mean of 3 years (1854–5–6) -	74,768	1·32	57,752	1·02	77·0	16,913
Scotland— Mean of 3 years (1854–5–6) -	11,337	1·25	8,401	·92	74·0	2,832
Ireland— Mean of 3 years (1854–5–6) -	27,899	1·41	16,295	·82	58·1	11,604
Mean of Great Britain and Ireland (3 years) - - -	—	1·32	—	·92	69·7	—
New South Wales (1858) - -	813	2·37	415	1·21	51·0	398

The proportions for Scotland, for 1854, have been calculated on the population for 1855, deducting the increase of births over deaths.
The proportions for Ireland have been calculated on the population for 1851.
The small difference between the number convicted and acquitted in England and Scotland, and the total committed, comprises the persons found to be insane.

Insolvencies.

22. As bearing upon the material condition of the population, I have introduced a table of insolvencies during the year.

The amount of assets actually realized cannot be given, and therefore the amount of deficiency is merely that shown in the insolvents' own statements. The deficiency will probably be nearer half a million than a quarter of a million sterling as stated. It is a matter of regret that returns for previous years could not be obtained, as they would tend to illustrate the commercial fluctuations and state of trade in the Colony at different periods of its history.

Meteorology.

23. The meteorological tables will have interest, as bearing upon the vital statistics and health of the population, and as serving to illustrate the climatic phenomena of the Colony, at different seasons and in various localities, as compared with each other and with other countries.

Agriculture.

24. I come now to the returns of agriculture. As possessing great interest, they are published at greater length than hitherto; each police district or portion of a police district comprising a county or pastoral district being separately given. Great pains have been taken to render the information as perfect as possible, but under the present mode of collection perfect reliance is not to be placed upon it; all that can be said is, that as a standard of comparison with former years it may be taken as a fair approximation to the truth, and I trust that the important interests involved in the question of agricultural production in this Colony will induce the Legislature to make some better provision for the collection of accurate data than I have at present at my command. The decennial table, page 108, shows an increase of no less than 32,930 acres under crop, as compared with the preceding year. Of this quantity the increase in—

Wheat is	5,554¼	acres.
Maize	12,691¾	„
Barley and oats	2,330	„
Rye and millet	108½	„
Potatoes	1,200	„
Sown grasses	11,113½	„
Vines	51¼	„
	33,049¼	
Less, decrease in tobacco	119¼	
Net increase	32,930	acres.

25. It is somewhat remarkable that an article of production like tobacco, of which there is so large a consumption, protected against foreign competition by an import duty of 2*s.* per pound, and for the growth of which much of the soil of this country is admirably adapted, should exhibit so fitful and declining a cultivation. In 1851 there were 731 acres in crop, with a produce of 12,530 cwt.; in 1854 there were only 8 acres under crop, with a produce of 260 cwt.; whilst in 1858 there were 56¾ acres under crop, with a produce of 715 cwt. This fluctuation in the cultivation of tobacco shows that it is not always a remunerative crop, and that a protective duty is not an infallible stimulant to native industry.

26. In the case of vines, on the other hand, it is satisfactory to notice a steady increase in the breadth of land planted, although the manufacture of wine shows great fluctuation, the produce being nearly 50 per cent. less last year than the year before. The following table will illustrate the progress and fluctuation above noticed during the last five years, viz.:—

	Acres.	Wine—Gallons.	Brandy—Gallons.
1854	913	57,959	674
1855	1,030¼	115,614	1,426
1856	1,018	95,645	1,547
1857	1,128	108,174	1,414
1858	1,179¾	58,396	1,224
	5,270	435,788	6,285
Mean	1,054	87,157	1,237

To assume from these figures that the mean produce of wine during the five years was at the rate of 83 gallons per acre, would be a very unfair deduction; because allowance has to be made in the first place for the immaturity of a very considerable proportion of the acreage under culture; and in the next place for the breadth of vineyard planted for table use, of which no part of the produce is manufactured into wine, together, perhaps, forming nearly one-half the total acreage.

* In order to explain the discrepancy between the "Total No. of Acres in Crop," in the summary table, page 107, and the decennial table, page 108, it may be proper here to state, that in accordance with former practice the acreage in "Green Food," in "Gardens and Orchards," and in the column headed "All other Crops," amounting in 1858 together to 5,852 acres, has been omitted in the decennial table. I am not aware of the reasons for the omission, and it attracted my notice too late to be remedied on the present occasion. My calculations are based on the figures in the decennial return, but it is those only contained in the proportional table of acreage under cultivation (paragraph 31) which are affected, and that not very materially.

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27. In the absence of more full and accurate data, it is impossible to estimate the value of the return per acre, from the cultivation of the grape.

This is unfortunate, since there is no more interesting or important branch of Colonial industry, whether considered in a commercial point of view, or in its bearing upon the cause of temperance.

		Totals.
In the settled districts there appear to be—		
Productive - -	- 835½ acres.	1,016
Unproductive - -	- 180¾ „	
In the pastoral district—		
Productive - -	- 135 „	163
Unproductive - -	- 28 „	
		1,179

The unproductive is therefore a little over one-fifth of the total acreage planted with vines; but to what extent of vineyard the manufacture of wine is confined the returns do not show.

The average produce of wine per acre from the Camden vineyard during the last 18 years, making no allowance for experiments, which materially diminish the production, has been from 450 to 500 gallons. The average produce of the vineyards of France, which cover about 5,000,000 acres, is estimated at 195 gallons per acre; some departments producing as low as 50 to 70 gallons per acre, whilst others produce from 400 to 700 gallons. Up to the present time the wine growers of New South Wales have had little encouragement to seek out foreign markets. Indeed, the production has been barely sufficient to meet the home demand. Some of the Australian wines have, however, obtained an European celebrity, and there is every reason to hope that the cultivation of the grape will form one of the most important and profitable occupations in the country.

28. As so much interest attaches to the question of the production of food, and of our means of supplying the demands of our own population, I feel that I should not dismiss the returns of agriculture without entering somewhat into the facts exhibited in the tables, and attempting to educe from them information that will prove both useful and interesting to the community.

We have seen that the breadth of land sown in wheat exceeds by 5,554 acres that sown in 1857, and the produce is stated at 1,565,532 bushels, being 276,488 bushels in excess of the same year. This is so far satisfactory, but from the results of no single year is it safe to deduce facts that affect so materially the interests of the colonists. I shall take the quinquennial period, embracing the years 1854 to 1858, and I would direct your attention to the accompanying table, showing 1stly—The imports of wheat and flour, the estimated value, and the quantity and rate per head of the population in each of the five years; 2ndly—The colonial produce of wheat in bushels, the average price per bushel, and the number of bushels and rate per head; 3rdly—The export of wheat and flour, the estimated value, and the quantity and rate per head.

Year.	Population.	Imports.				Colonial Produce.				Value of Imports and Colonial Produce per head of Population.	Exports.			
		Wheat.	Flour and Bread.	Estimated Value.	Value of Imports per head of Population.	Wheat.	Average price per Bushel throughout the Colony.	Estimated Value.	Value of Colonial Produce per head of Population.		Wheat.	Flour and Bread.	Estimated Value.	Value of Exports per head of opulation.
		Bushels.	Tons.	£	£ s. d.	Bushels.	s. d.	£	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	Bushels.	Tons.	£	s. d.
1854	251,315	53,788	3,060	148,925	0 11 10	786,278	11 6	452,110	1 15 11	2 7 9	45,493	4,468	207,615	16 6
1855	277,579	836,363	8,025	554,404	1 19 11	1,335,446	16 5	1,096,178	3 18 11	5 18 10	32,724	2,830	126,036	9 1
1856	286,873	333,244	16,489	526,167	1 16 8	1,756,964	11 3	988,292	3 8 10	5 5 6	7,595	1,460	40,939	2 10
1857	385,487	260,364	10,580	331,577	1 1 8	1,289,044	7 4	472,649	1 10 11	2 12 7	3,680	1,299	31,129	2 0
1858	342,062	228,492	9,495	281,292	0 16 5	1,565,532	10 3	802,335	2 6 11	3 3 4	14	1,479 pkgs. *268	26,065	1 6
Average of Five Years - -		342,540	9,529	368,473	1 5 3	1,346,652	11 4	762,312	2 12 3	3 17 7	17,901	2,307	86,356	6 4

* Omitting 268 packages, weight unknown.

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29. In 1853 the crop of wheat was above the average, being stated at 1,384,541 bushels, or 18½ bushels per acre. The import of flour and bread was also very large, being over 12,540 tons, and the export very small, being only 1,250 tons. The stock of bread-stuffs at the end of 1853 was therefore larger than was required to supply the consumption, and the result is manifested in the larger exports and reduced imports of 1854, with which year the table commences. I shall forbear any lengthy remarks in explanation of the results set before you—the figures will speak for themselves. The average of the five years shows that there was imported, of wheat, flour, and bread, at the rate of 1*l.* 5*s.* 3*d.* per head of the population, and that the colonial produce was at the rate of 2*l.* 12*s.* 2*d.*, together 3*l.* 17*s.* 5*d.* It shows that we exported at the rate of 5*s.* 5*d.* per head, which leaves exactly 3*l.* 12*s.* as the rate of consumption of bread-stuffs per head of the population; and it shows that, deducting the value of the exports, we have expended, on an average, about 300,000*l.* per annum in foreign corn and flour, exclusive of rice and other grain.

30. The values placed upon imports and exports not being declared values, but arbitrarily fixed by the corn and flour dealers, the data upon which these calculations are based may, perhaps, admit of question. I therefore place before you another table, showing the quantities imported, produced in the Colony, and exported for every 100 of the population. For the purposes of this table, and for greater simplification, I have reduced the wheat into flour, at the rate of 45 bushels per ton.

Year.	Population.	Import of Bread-stuffs (in Flour).	Colonial Produce (in Flour).	Total.	Export of Bread-stuffs (in Flour).	Net Quantity for Consumption.	Proportion per 100 of Population.
		Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
1854	251,315	4,255	17,472	21,727	5,479	16,248	6·4
1855	277,579	26,610	29,676	56,286	3,557	52,729	18·9
1856	286,873	25,894	39,043	62,937	1,628	61,309	21·3
1857	305,487	16,366	28,645	45,011	1,380	43,631	14·2
1858	342,062	14,582	34,789	49,371	1,479	47,892	14·0
Average of five years -		17,141	29,923	47,066	2,704	44,361*	14·9

45 bushels of wheat to the ton of flour (2,000 lbs.)
* Wheat for seed is included in this quantity.

You will observe a wide range in the net quantity for consumption in proportion to the population in each of the five years, fluctuating as it does from 6 tons to 18, from 18 to 21, and from 21 to 14; during 1858 the stock seems to have been regulated by the demand, which manifests an indisposition on the part of importers to speculate beyond what was necessary for the supply of the current wants of the community. It is possible that the immense importation of rice may have had some influence upon transactions in wheat—upwards of 31,300 tons were imported during 1858,—a quantity far in excess of the requirements of the European or Chinese population.

31. In further elucidation of the agricultural statistics, the following tables will be found interesting; the first gives the proportion of acreage under the principal crops during the last five years, and the second, the produce per acre. The latter table deserves careful attention. It has no unimportant bearing upon the prospects of a large and valuable section of the community, who are engaged in or purpose engaging in agricultural pursuits. It being seen by the first table that nearly one-half the land under cultivation, taking the mean of five years, has been sown in wheat, it becomes of importance to show what has been the average production, so that we may come at the return to be expected from this description of crop, and compare the results with those of the adjoining Colonies.

STATEMENT of the proportion of the cultivated land under the principal crops during the years 1854, 5, 6, 7, and 8.

	1854. Acres per cent.	1855.	1856.	1857.	1858.	Mean of Five Years.
Wheat - - - -	47·8	50·4	57·0	48·3	43·5	49·4
Maize - - - -	21·3	20·1	17·2	23·2	25·5	21·4
Barley - - - -	2·7	2·6	2·3	2·4	2·2	2·4
Oats - - - -	1·2	1·5	1·8	2·5	3·0	2·0
Potatoes - - -	3·8	5·3	4·7	4·3	4·2	4·4
Hay - - - -	22·2	19·0	16·0	18·3	20·6	19·2

PRODUCE per acre of each of the principal crops during the years 1854, 5, 6, 7, and 8.

	1854.	1855.	1856.	1857.	1858.	Mean of Five Years.
Wheat (bushels) - -	12·7	15·4	16·5	14·4	16·5	15·1
Maize „ - - -	30·0	29·5	33·9	26·1	34·9	30·8
Barley „ - - -	10·3	14·4	15·6	12·9	25·0	15·6
Oats „ - - -	16·8	19·0	14·1	13·1	16·5	15·9
Potatoes (tons) - - -	2·9	4·1	3·1	2·6	3·5	3·2
Hay „ - - -	·8	1·3	1·4	1·5	1·6	1·3

We see that the yield has ranged from 12½ to 16½ bushels in the five years, the average being a trifle over 15 bushels per acre. The price of wheat ranged from 7*s.* 4*d.* up to 16*s.* 5*d.* per bushel; the average being 11*s.* 4*d.* per bushel. This gives an annual produce of 8*l.* 10*s.* per acre.

But, as this was a period of comparatively high prices, it may be desirable to carry our inquiry further back through a decennial period.

From the year 1849 to 1853, the price of wheat ranged between 4*s.* and 8*s.* 6*d.* per bushel; the average of the five years being not quite 6*s.* per bushel; if, therefore, we take the mean of the ten years, we shall find that the average value of wheat was 8*s.* 7*d.* per bushel, which gives 6*l.* 8*s.* 9*d.* as the average annual return per acre; out of this has to come the cost of seed wheat, and of transport to market, &c., before we can arrive at the remuneration an agriculturist may expect to derive for his labour.

32. I do not think it necessary to enter into similar calculations with regard to other descriptions of crop; the figures will speak for themselves, and will afford any interested inquirer the means of deducing his own conclusions. It may, however, be interesting to show the relative produce of wheat per acre in the Australian Colonies. The average of the Colony of Victoria for the three years 1855 to 1857 was estimated at 23 bushels per acre; but in 1858 it was only 20·7 bushels, owing to the severity of the hot winds. This is five to six bushels in excess of the average of this Colony.

In South Australia, the average crop is estimated somewhat below that of New South Wales. The following summary of wheat averages for 1858 shows a mean of 15 bushels per acre, viz.:—

	Acres.
Exceeding 25 bushels per acre, and not exceeding 30	804
Exceeding 20 bushels, and not exceeding 25	3,533
Exceeding 15, and not exceeding 20	21,365
Exceeding 10, and not exceeding 15	63,244
Exceeding 5, and not exceeding 10	80,175
Under 5 bushels per acre	17,909
Total	187,030

It is a very remarkable fact, highly illustrative of the spirit of steady industry and perseverance which characterizes the inhabitants of that province, that with a lower average produce than any of the other Colonies, she should far outstrip them all in her agricultural resources and enterprise. In proportion to her population, she has more than double the number of acres under cultivation than either New South Wales or Victoria; and in the year 1856 she exported over 22,000 tons of flour, of the value of nearly half a million sterling, the produce of their own industry.

In Tasmania, the average produce of the years 1857 and 1858 was not quite 19 bushels to the acre; thus, we see that whilst our average produce slightly exceeds that of South Australia, it ranges from four to eight bushels below that of Victoria and Tasmania. When by railway extension, facilities of transport are offered to our best wheat-growing districts, it is probable we shall find our average produce increased to not very much below that of our southern neighbours.

33. The maize crop holds a much more important position in the agricultural statistics of this Colony, than in any other of the Australian group, more than 21 per cent. of the land cultivated being under this description of crop, and the average produce being over 30 bushels to the acre. The cultivation of the Sorghum Saccharatum, and Imphee, is commending itself to our agriculturists. As a green crop it is stated to be most prolific, and valuable for its fattening qualities; unfortunately, the returns of this year afford no means of ascertaining the extent to which the cultivation has attained.

Live Stock.

34. No less interesting than the returns of agriculture, are those of live stock, as perhaps to a greater degree are we dependent for the means of living upon the increase of our flocks and herds, than upon the produce of our cereal crops. How then do we stand in this respect? The decennial return at page 111 exhibits a decrease of 38,060 cattle, 557,400 sheep, and 16,323 pigs; and this in the face of a largely increasing population of our own, and of a largely increasing demand for the supply of meat for the sister Colony of Victoria. I cannot help looking upon this decrease as a question of very serious concernment. We know that within the last five years there has been an extrordinary development of pastoral enterprise to the northward; and yet we find at the end of 1858, a decrease of over half a million in the number of sheep in the Colony at the end of 1854.

35. As of the agricultural returns, so of the returns of live stock, the mode of collection is far from satisfactory; great efforts have been made to render them as accurate as possible; they have been carefully compared with those of the year before, and wherever a decrease or discrepancy appeared, they were returned for explanation or correction. One very serious obstacle to the accurate collection of these returns is to be found in the feeling of distrust as to the purposes to which the information may be applied. Many proprietors are under the impression that it is wanted for purposes of taxation, and others look upon the inquiry as impertinent. Is is most important that the apprehensions of the one class should be allayed, and the ignorance of the other enlightened; but it is doubtful whether the accomplishment of these ends can be secured by the means at present employed. From the district of Molong, no returns at all were to be obtained; and the returns of the former year afford no satisfactory means of arriving with accuracy at the amount of stock depastured in that district, although they sufficiently prove that the decrease shown to exist could not be converted into an increase, even had the returns from Molong been accurately rendered. I consider it better, therefore, to proceed on the data we are in possession of, than to add any imaginary figures of my own to supply the deficiency. The districts in which the stock had decreased most are those lying to the west and north; and, in answer to my inquiries, it is stated that the decrease is attributable to losses from drought in some districts, from rain in others, and from a drainage for the Victorian markets in nearly all. The extent to which this latter cause has operated will be shown in a subsequent return (see page 166), where it is seen that the export of stock of which account was taken, amounted to 469,689

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sheep, and 130,384 cattle, and it is probable that stock may have crossed the Murray at places where no account was taken at all.

36. We will now see how the matter stands, if we unite the returns of the sister Colony with our own.

In 1857, the returns show—

Horses.	Cattle.	Sheep.	Pigs.	
55,683	614,537	4,766,022	43,632	Victoria.
180,053	2,148,664	8,139,162	109,166	New South Wales.
235,736	2,763,201	12,905,184	152,798	Total.
In 1858,—				
68,323	699,330	5,578,413	37,756	Victoria.
200,713	2,110,604	7,581,762	92,843	New South Wales.
269,036	2,809,934	13,160,175	130,599	Total.
Increase.	Increase.	Increase.	Decrease.	
33,300	46,733	254,991	21,199	

By these figures it appears that, with the exception of pigs, there is an increase in the live stock depasturing in the united Colonies; but it is an increase utterly inadequate to supply the wants of the community for food. The importance, therefore, of paying attention not only to the breeding but to the fattening of stock, is made amply apparent, and cannot fail to attract notice.

37. The export of sheep and cattle from New South Wales to Victoria, in 1857, was set down in the statistics of Victoria at—cattle, 102,062; sheep, 435,226. These figures are not checked by any reckoning on our own side; and a note appended to the return, to the effect that the stock imported "*viâ* Belvoir," during the first three quarters of the year, was not included, shows that it would be unsafe to make any calculations upon them. It is probable that Victoria must look to New South Wales to supply the deficiency of animal food which the demands of her rapidly increasing population may create; and therefore it behoves us to look to the causes of the decrease in our live stock, and to make provision, by more careful breeding and management, to meet not only our own wants but the growing demands of the sister Colony also.

Population.

38. The gross population is estimated at 342,062. The table shows an increase by births over deaths, of 7,919; and by immigration over emigration, of 25,123, making a total of 33,042, or 10·69 per cent. on the population of the previous year. Of this number, 12,004 were Chinese, three-fourths of whom have probably found their way to the gold fields of Victoria. This, however, is a conjectural estimate, as there are no means of ascertaining with accuracy the movement of the population across the River Murray, whether to or from Victoria or South Australia.

39. The operation of the Act for the registration of births, deaths, and marriages, has been most successful. The natural increase of the population by births is by this means accurately recorded, and its sanitary condition and decrease by deaths clearly established. The facts collected will every year become more interesting, and take their rank amongst the most valuable archives of the Colony. The results of the year's registration are as follows, viz.:—Marriages, 2,992; births, 13,802; deaths, 5,883. The detailed tables published annually render further notice in this report unnecessary.

40. There is one feature in the immigration returns worthy of special notice—it is the extraordinary expansion of the voluntary system. You will observe, that whilst 6,916 men, women, and children were deported at the public expense, no less than 17,823, exclusive of Chinese, came out at their own expense, or at the expense of their friends. This is a striking and gratifying fact. It shows more than anything the beneficial operation of the remittance regulations, and the prosperity of the working classes—that they are by their industry enabled, by means of those regulations, to send home money for the introduction of their friends and relatives. It is proper, however, to add that the excitement caused by the reported gold discovery on the Fitz Roy River contributed largely to swell up the numbers.

Imports and Exports.

41. The Customs returns occupy a large space in the volume. They possess great interest, as illustrating the commercial progress of the Colony, and showing the relative proportion that our imports bear to our exports, not only in each year, but in a succession of years. Statistics of commerce are not only useful and interesting to ourselves, but to every nation with which we have relations. They show us the wisdom of our fiscal legislation, as it is only by their means that we can judge of its results. They illustrate the development of our commercial relations with the other Colonies, with the Mother Country, and with Foreign States. They show us the propriety of the withdrawal or of the enactment of legislative restrictions upon commercial competition and enterprise, and the effect that either one or the other has upon the course of trade; and if it is allowed that commerce promotes the advancement of civilization, by facilitating communication between the inhabitants of the different countries of the world, by showing them how habitually dependent they are on each other for the production and supply of commodities essential to subsistence, to comfort, and to enjoyment, it will be admitted that a periodical investigation into the commercial progress of a country is not one of the least important duties of every enlightened Government.

42. It is to be regretted that returns of so great value, when carefully prepared, should have been kept in the loose, perfunctory, and immethodical manner which has hitherto characterised the statistics of the Customs department. Their value is very seriously impaired from another cause, which may

not be so easy of rectification. I allude to the stated values of the different articles imported and exported. These values are arbitrarily fixed by the Custom-house agent or merchant's clerk, and often without any regard to the real value of the articles and commodities; indeed, were any declaration of their value enforced by law, it is likely that it would be often made without care, and must sometimes, even with great care, be liable to error. It is clear that, under this practice, the *quantities* imported and exported must form the basis for comparison, in preference to the *values*, and in what few remarks I may have to offer on the most prominent features of these returns, I will endeavour to present them in this light. By the use of quinquennial averages, perhaps a nearer approximation to the truth may be obtained than by any separate calculations, and the decennial tables which follow the detailed statements of imports and exports afford a ready means of arriving at the results, so far as the more important articles of commerce are concerned.

43. Turning first to the table at page 117, which is intended to exhibit a general view of the results of our import and export trade, the principal features worthy of note are, first, the excess of imports from the United Kingdom over our exports, to the extent of over two millions and a half sterling; second, the excess of exports over imports (seaward), to the Australian Colonies and New Zealand, to the extent of over one million and a half; and third, the excess of our imports from foreign countries over our exports, to the extent of nearly three-quarters of a million. The general total shows a balance of 1,873,089*l.* against the stated value of the exports of the year.

It is to be regretted, with reference to the table of imports from the Australian Colonies, that the Customs returns do not afford the means of distinguishing each Colony separately, the whole being grouped together under one head. This defect will be remedied by improved arrangements in the method of keeping the records of the present year.

44. The detailed statement of exports, pages 134 to 150, affords the means wanting in the other. A careful analysis produces the following results, viz.:—

	Colonial.	British, &c.	Totals.
To Victoria - - - - -	£1,024,488	£821,211	£1,845,699
To South Australia - - - -	19,699	4,469	24,168
To Tasmania - - - - -	52,079	46,497	98,576
Totals -	1,096,266	872,177	1,968,443*

We thus find that of our own produce we exported to the neighbouring Colonies to the extent of over a million sterling, and of British and foreign goods to the extent of nearly nine hundred thousand, together very close upon two millions; with the exception of 122,000*l.*, the whole of this large trade was carried on with the sister Colony of Victoria.

Perhaps it may be interesting to show some of the chief items which make up this large export trade with Victoria. They are as follows, viz.:—

	£
Apparel, boots, drapery, &c. - - - -	97,875
Flour, grain, and potatoes - - - -	85,571
Green fruits - - - - -	33,725
Butter and candles - - - -	36,527
Coals - - - - - -	52,693
Gold - - - - - -	1,241,419
Hardware, iron, and lead - - - -	22,813
Sugar and molasses - - - -	103,049
Tea - - - - - - -	20,189
Timber - - - - - -	22,622
Tobacco - - - - - -	16,861
Wine, spirits, and beer - - - -	26,046

It is very much to be regretted that, owing to the defect before mentioned in the import returns, we cannot arrive at the balance of trade with each Colony separately. That the aggregate exports to the Australian Colonies exceeded the imports from them by more than a million and a quarter, is satisfactory to know, and we must therewith be content.

45. The decennial statements at page 151, in so far as the stated values are to be relied upon, show the following quinquennial results:—

	Great Britain.	British Colonies.	South Sea Islands and Fisheries.	United States.	Foreign States.	Total.
IMPORTS.	£	£	£	£	£	£
1849 to 1853 - -	9,311,845	1,199,958	195,774	274,716	1,471,473	12,453,766
Average -	1,862,369	239,992	39,155	54,943	294,294	2,490,753
1854 to 1858 - -	18,175,509	4,457,286	385,298	1,415,478	4,465,756	28,899,327
Average -	3,635,102	891,457	77,059	283,096	893,151	5,779,865
Totals - -	27,487,354	5,657,244	581,072	1,690,194	5,937,229	41,353,093
Average -	5,497,471	1,131,449	116,214	338,039	1,187,445	8,270,618

* There is a slight discrepancy between these figures and those in the table at page 117, for which I am unable to account, amounting to 227*l.*

NEW SOUTH WALES.

EXPORTS.	£	£	£	£	£	£
1859 to 1853 - -	10,002,678	3,063,233	60,230	192,977	98,902	13,418,020
Average -	2,000,535	612,646	12,046	38,596	19,780	2,683,604
1854 to 1858 - -	8,693,912	8,755,513	256,257	46,192	811,491	18,563,365
Average -	1,738,782	1,751,103	51,251	9,238	162,298	3,712,673
Totals - -	18,696,590	11,818,746	316,487	239,169	910,393	31,981,385
Average -	3,739,318	2,363,749	63,297	47,834	182,078	6,396,277
Excess of Exports -	- - -	6,161,502				
Excess of Imports -	8,790,764	- - -	264,585	1,451,025	5,026,836	9,371,708

Now what do we gather from these figures? We learn in the first place, that during the five years from 1849 to 1853, we imported goods to the value of nearly twelve millions and a half sterling, and that we exported goods approaching to the value of thirteen millions and a half, which leaves a balance of nearly a million in favour of exports, than which nothing can be made satisfactory. I speak in round numbers for perspicuity's sake—the figures we are dealing with being very large. Now let us look at the following five years (1854 to 1859), and we shall see the reverse of the picture. It appears that we imported to the stated value of nearly twenty-nine millions sterling, and that we exported to the value of only eighteen millions and a half, which leaves an excess of imports over exports to the value of ten millions and a half sterling.

46. Secondly, we see the extraordinary results of the discovery of gold, as they are exemplified in the imports of the two quinquennial periods. We find that during the latter period the imports from Great Britain were doubled; from the British Colonies they were quadrupled; from the South Sea Islands, &c., they were doubled; from the United States they were nearly quintupled; and from other foreign countries they were trebled. Nothing can so plainly demonstrate the advance in wealth which this Colony has made in the last five years, as the results brought out in the figures before us. Whether wealth so easily and rapidly obtained has been as lavishly expended, or whether these enormous importations evidence a wholesome state of our commercial relations with Great Britain and other countries which contribute to swell up the total, are questions which would require deeper investigation to determine, but which it is not the purpose of this report to discuss.

47. Thirdly, we see in the last five years, an increase in the total value of our exports to the extent of more than five millions sterling over the exports of the first quinquennial period.

The shipments to Great Britain show a remarkable falling off, to the value of nearly a million and a half. Whether this is satisfactorily accounted for by the opening of the navigation of the River Murray, by which much of our produce is diverted for shipment at Adelaide, and by the shorter distance and greater facilities offered for the transit of wool and other productions of our southern districts, *viâ* Melbourne, for shipment, must be left to the individual judgment of those who are interested in the question.

48. We see in the next column the extraordinary development of our inter-colonial trade, in the increase of shipments to the extent of nearly five millions and three-quarters sterling, to which we may add another quarter of a million for the increase in the South Sea trade; together nine millions or thereabouts; that is to say, our export trade with the British Colonies and Islands in the South Seas has trebled itself in the last five years. To the United States a large decrease is observable in the value of the shipments during the latter quinquennial period, viz., from 192,977*l.* to 46,192*l.*, whilst to other foreign states there has been an expansion of our export trade from 98,902*l.* in the first period, to 811,491*l.* in the last, which is more particularly noticeable in the last three years of the period. Taking the first period, we find the mean of the five years gives—imports, 11*s.* 7*d.*; exports, 12*s.* 7*d.* per head of the population; and taking the second period, we find the mean of the five years to give—imports, 19*s.* 8*d.*; exports, 12*s.* 7*d.* per head of the population.

49. I am reminded by the quantity of matter still remaining to be noticed, that to enter into a minute analysis of all the tables connected with the trade of the Colony, would lead me to transgress the proper limits of a cursory report of this kind. The small decennial returns of imports and exports, pages 152 to 156, are continued from former statistics; they were designed to illustrate, not the entire trade of the Colony, but only that in which foreign is brought into competition with home produce, for it appears that the export returns have been confined to articles or commodities,* *the produce of the Colony*, that is, to the quantity raised by ourselves, and exported after supplying our own consumption. I give this explanation, as owing to a defect in the heading the public have been misled into striking a balance between the imports and exports of grain, butter, and cheese, &c., as they appear in these tables, as though they expressed the total trade in each commodity; whereas, so far as I have gone through them, the import tables give the total imports of the class, whilst the export tables, as I have said, are confined to colonial produce, and do not extend to re-exports of any kind. Beneath each table will be found a note expressing the estimated value of the total export, both colonial and foreign.

50. There is one of these tables only to which I think it necessary to refer, and that is to the export of wool—the most important of the productive resources of this Colony. It is a coincidence not unworthy of note, that the staple product of England during the two first centuries after the Conquest was wool. Her commerce during that period was almost confined to the exportation of this great staple commodity, "upon which, more than any other," says a great English historian,† "in its raw or manufactured state "her wealth has been founded." If there are any figures upon which perfect reliance may be placed, it is upon those which express the annual export of wool; and therefore, looking to the quantities rather

* The tables referred to include grain and flour, butter and cheese, live stock, salt provisions, hides and leather, wool and tallow, timber, coal, oil, and gold.

† Hallam.

than to the values, we are afforded a very accurate view of the progress we have made in the production of this great staple commodity.

The following table presents in quinquennial periods the number of sheep in each year, and the number of pounds of wool exported, with the estimated value, which may be left out of the calculation as of no value.

Year.	No. of Sheep.	Pounds of Wool.	Value.
			£
1849	6,784,494	13,396,525	663,965
1850	7,092,209	14,270,622	788,051
1851	7,396,895	15,268,473	828,302
1852	7,707,917	11,086,974	676,815
1853	7,929,708	16,358,869	999,896
Total of 5 years -	36,911,223	70,381,463	*3,957,029
Average of 5 years -	7,382,244	14,076,293	791,406
1854	8,144,119	18,976,300	1,181,956
1855	8,602,499	17,671,684	1,078,017
1856	7,736,323	19,200,341	1,303,070
1857	8,139,162	17,044,201	1,275,067
1858	7,581,762	13,553,835	1,126,486
Total of 5 years -	40,203,865	86,446,361	†5,964,596
Average of 5 years -	8,010,773	17,289,272	1,192,919

51. In glancing over these figures the eye at once detects the improvement that has taken place in the breeding of sheep, as exemplified in the increased production of wool. Without descending to fractional calculations it is seen that the average clip of the first five years was under 2 lbs. per sheep, whilst the average of the second quinquennial period is considerably over 2 lbs. per sheep, and if we take into the calculation, as we may very properly do, the increased export of wool, *viâ* Melbourne and Adelaide, *the produce of New South Wales flocks*, which the proximity and comparative cheapness of transit to those ports have diverted from Sydney, we may, I think, safely calculate the average clip at two pounds and a quarter to two pounds and a half of wool per sheep per annum. I am unable to account for the apparent decrease in the shipments of wool in 1852. There is no corresponding decrease in the flocks, and, therefore, it must have arisen either from the difficulty of getting the clip down to the ports of shipment—yet, if this were the case, we should observe evidence of it in the increased shipments of the following year, which we do not—or it must arise from a serious falling off in the clip, the effect of a bad season. A similar falling off appears in the exports of last year as compared with 1857,‡ which can only be accounted for as previously suggested, viz., by the diversion of large quantities by way of the Rivers Darling and Murray to Adelaide; to the increased shipments *viâ* Melbourne; and, perhaps, in some degree to a deficiency in the clip.

52. Looking to the returns of live stock in Victoria, and to the shipment of wool from Melbourne in 1857, I find the number of sheep stated at 4,641,548, and the export of wool at 17,176,920 lbs. Our own statistics show 8,139,162 sheep, and an export of 17,044,201 lbs. A comparison of these figures affords reasonable grounds for supposing not that the clip of wool in Victoria is nearly double that of New South Wales, but that the causes to which I have attributed the decrease in the Sydney shipments are the right ones, namely, the diversion to other ports of the produce of our southern districts for shipment to Europe. The sheep farmers would do well to look into the causes of last year's deficiency, and see if they can detect any other cause than that assigned above, for if I am wrong, the question is serious, as it involves a loss of not less than 350,000*l.* to the community.

53. There is one other point to which I wish to direct attention, before passing on to other subjects of inquiry; I allude to the development of our export trade in wool with the continent of Europe. Previous to the year 1857, the statistics of customs do not distinguish the *quantities* nor *the country* to which exported. The values only are given under the general head of "Foreign States." It is only since the year 1855, that any direct trade worthy of notice seems to have sprung up with the continental states. In 1856 the value of the shipments is stated at 71,764*l.* In 1857 we exported to Holland 362,600 lbs., of the stated value of 27,305*l.*, and in 1858 we exported to—

France - - - -	480,500 lbs.
Holland - - - -	492,597 „
Antwerp - - - -	168,124 „
Total - -	1,141,221 lbs.

which, at 1*s.* 9*d.* per lb., would give 99,861*l.*

* Value calculated at about 1*s.* 1½*d.* per lb.

† Value calculated at about 1*s.* 4½*d.* per lb.

‡ Viz. :—1857 - - - - 17,044,201 lbs.
1858 - - - - 13,553,835 „

Deficiency - - - 3,490,366 „
Allowance for decrease of sheep, 557,400 at 2½ lbs. per head 1,393,500 „

Total deficiency - - 2,096,866 „

NEW SOUTH WALES.

Shipping.

54. As in some degree corroborative or corrective of the returns of imports and exports, the returns of shipping inwards and outwards are worthy of passing notice, and for the purpose of comparison I will take them in the quinquennial form adopted in the former case.

——	Great Britain.	British Colonies.	South Seas.	United States.	Foreign States.	Total.
INWARDS.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
1849 to 1853 - - -	340,645	374,389	59,815	72,488	88,032	925,369
Average - -	68,129	74,878	11,963	14,498	17,606	187,074
1854 to 1858 - - -	504,194	923,074	52,637	85,430	186,991	1,752,326
Average - -	100,839	184,615	10,527	17,086	37,398	350,465
Totals - - - -	844,839	1,297,463	112,452	157,918	275,023	2,687,695
Average - -	168,968	259,493	22,490	31,584	55,004	537,539
OUTWARDS.						
1849 to 1853 - - -	146,484	453,034	82,857	58,336	224,718	965,429
Average - -	29,297	90,607	16,571	11,667	44,944	193,086
1854 to 1858 - - -	157,800	1,155,689	57,970	29,924	450,673	1,852,056
Average - -	31,560	231,138	11,594	5,985	90,134	370,411
Totals - - -	304,284	1,608,723	140,827	88,260	675,391	2,817,485
Average - -	60,857	321,745	28,165	17,652	135,078	563,497

55. These figures, in the main, bear out the deductions drawn from the returns of imports and exports. You will observe a proportional increase in the last over the first five years in the shipping inwards from Great Britain, from the British Colonies, and from foreign states, but not from the South Seas or United States, for which I shall by-and-by try to account.

You will further observe, with regard to the shipping outwards, that whilst a decrease of nearly a million and a half in value was exhibited in the exports to Great Britain during the last quinquennial period, there is an increase in the shipping outwards of over 11,000 tons. The cause of this discrepancy is obvious. The imports (as has been previously shown) having exceeded the exports from Great Britain by more than double, a large number of ships were unable to obtain homeward cargoes, and cleared out in ballast, as may be seen by reference to the tables at pages 159 and 160.

56. The development of our commercial relations with the Colonies is equally exemplified in the shipping returns as we have seen it in the returns of imports and exports, the tonnage employed being nearly trebled in the last five years, whilst with foreign states the tonnage employed has been doubled.

57. The decrease observable in the outward tonnage employed in the trade with the South Seas and the United States is clearly owing to a falling off in the whale fishery; this will at once be seen by a reference to the return of fisheries, at page 162, which exhibits a decrease of 3,329 tuns of oil, of the stated value of 76,577*l.* during the last, as compared with the first quinquennial period.

58. Of the vessels which traded to the Colony in 1858, there were belonging to—

Great Britain - - -	452 of	152,930	tons.
British possessions - - -	456 „	113,168	„
Together - -	998 „	266,098	„
United States - - -	70 of	51,234	„
European states - - -	65 „	29,695	„
French possessions - - -	8 „	1,687	„
	143 „	82,886	„
Totals - - - -	1,141 „	348,984	„

And of vessels that left the Colony there were, belonging to—

Great Britain - - -	130 of	90,927	tons
British possessions - - -	980 „	193,930	„
Together - -	1,110 „	284,857	„
United States - - -	73 „	52,107	„
French possessions - - -	7 „	1,301	„
European states - - -	64 „	28,560	„
	144 „	81,968	„
Totals - - - -	1,254 „	366,825	„

The carrying trade of the country is thus seen to be in the hands of British and colonial as compared with foreign ship-owners in the following proportions, viz.:—

	Inwards.	Outwards.
British - - - - } Colonial - - - - }	87·4	88·5
American - - - -	6·1	5·8
European - - -	5·6	5·1
Others - - - -	0·7	0·5

Overland Traffic.

59. The returns of the overland traffic between this Colony and Victoria, *viâ* Albury, are given for the first time. The tables will be found in detail at pages 163 to 166.

The total exports are valued at	- £574,550
against imports	- 349,951
Balance in favour of exports	- £224,599

These figures refer only to the goods and live stock crossing the River Murray at Belvoir and Albury; they have been taken from the Customs returns of Victoria, and they are all I have succeeded in collecting to illustrate the overland trade between the two Colonies.

60. The imports and exports of live stock from and to Victoria, at other crossing places than Albury and Belvoir, are not given in the detailed statements, but will be found in the smaller tables, page 166. You will there see that we sent over the Murray to Victoria, at the places named, viz.:—

Horses.	Cattle.	Sheep.	Pigs.	
5,953	128,851	439,185	2,037	Exports.
577	6,122	7,850	- -	Imports.
5,376	122,729	431,335	2,037	Net Exports.

If we value the horses at 20*l.* per head, they will produce	£107,520
the cattle at 6*l.* „ - - -	736,374
the sheep at 15*s.* „ - - -	323,501
and the pigs at 40*s.* „ - - -	4,074
we thus arrive at - - -	1,171,469
And if we calculate the live stock sent to South Australia at the same rates, we shall find a further sum of -	48,316
Making a total of - - - -	£1,219,785

on the export of stock during the year. It is quite possible that stock has crossed the borders at places where no records have been kept, and considering the great extent of our frontier and the want of proper officers to collect the information, it is more than probable that a considerable number has escaped detection.

61. As regards the trade with Adelaide, *viâ* the Murray and Darling, I have had no means of collecting information. That there have been large supplies obtained *viâ* these rivers for the stations on their banks, and that a considerable quantity of wool has gone down by the same route, is a matter of notoriety.

The opening up of water communication within the territory of New South Wales, to the extent of over 2,000 miles, by way of the Murray and Murrumbidgee, and to the extent of over 1,000 miles up the courses of the Edward and Darling Rivers, forms one of the most notable features in her history, and is pregnant with the most important results. The whole valley of the Darling, from Fort Bourke downwards, is now partly occupied with stock, and we may look for a large development of our pastoral resources from the facilities of communication that the navigation of this river promises to afford.

Public Works.

62. The returns of public works, local revenues, roads trusts, defences, &c. require few remarks for their elucidation.

The first of these returns has been classified under distinct heads, such as railways, roads, bridges, harbours, buildings, &c., for more easy reference.

This return is prepared upon the same plan as formerly, but it is defective, inasmuch as it does not show the actual expenditure during the year. It is, moreover, capable of improvement in other respects, but I have found it impossible to introduce the necessary amendments on the present occasion from insufficiency of data.

It appears by the Auditor General's statement that there was expended on "Loans Account" for sewerage and waterworks connected with the city of Sydney, a sum of - £73,988

Railways - - - - -	- *137,484
Miscellaneous works - - -	- 98,502
	£309,974

* Not included in the return.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

And on account of "Consolidated Revenue,"—

On public works and bridges - -	£43,452
Roads and bridges - - -	76,024
	119,476
Making a total of - - -	£429,450 expended during the year.

Under the head of "Local Revenues" are included statements of receipts and disbursements of the municipality of Sydney, the city sewerage and water funds being separately distinguished, together with a return of receipts and disbursements of the several roads trusts in the Colony during the year 1858.

The returns of military expenditure, imperial and colonial, and of our means of defence (page 175) do not seem to call for any special notice at the present time.

The total charge on the Colony for military services is put down at	£29,888 3 6
Naval - - - - - - - - - -	3,040 12 11
Together - -	32,928 16 5
But in this charge is included—	
"Railway survey" - - - - - -	3,447 14 5
"Mint," pay and allowances - - - - -	2,281 18 1
Governor General's orderlies, and military guard, cockatoo -	386 9 1
	£6,116 1 7

A sum that it seems hardly fair to charge under the head of "Military" expenditure.

Revenue and Expenditure.

63. It is unnecessary that I should advert at any length to the returns of revenue and expenditure; they are condensed from the annual statements of the Auditor General, presented to Parliament. In order to avoid swelling this report to an inconvenient size, the causes of increase or decrease are appended as notes to the comparative statements.

It will be seen that the ordinary revenue of 1858 exceeded that of the previous year by 211,424*l.*, viz.:—

1857 - - -	£1,156,965
1858 - - -	1,368,389

In the comparative statement the principal increase will be found under the head of—

Customs - - - - - -	£24,193
Gold and Mint receipts - - - -	21,041
Land revenue - - - - - -	128,589
Railways, tolls, and electric telegraph - - -	57,095

The increase in the Customs revenue is 4·53 per cent., whilst the increase in the estimated population is 10·69 per cent. But deducting 17,000, or 5·5 per cent., from the increase of population for Chinese left the Colony, and for infants not consumers of dutiable commodities, the comparison will stand thus, viz.:—

Estimated increase of population . -	10·69
less Chinese and infants - -	5·5
	5·64
Increase in Customs revenue -	4·53
Difference - - -	1·11*

The increase in the land revenue is particularly noticeable; it has been derived chiefly from increase in—

Land sales - - - - - - - -	£30,300
In rents - - - - - - - -	9,192
And from the operation of the new assessment on Runs Act (22 Victoria, No. 17) - - - - - -	87,858

I believe that the large sum of 55,339*l.* which appears as increase under the head of "Railway Tolls," is assignable, not to largely increased receipts over the previous year, but to a change in the mode of rendering the accounts.

The principal decrease is observable on the duty on—

Colonial spirits - - - - - - -	£12,522
And assessment on stock, owing to the expiry of the Act (20th Victoria, 39) - - - - . - -	30,911

64. The Consolidated Revenue Fund on the 31st December 1858 shows a balance to credit of 233,550*l.* against 55,888*l.* to credit at the end of 1857. This must be taken as satisfactory evidence of the financial prosperity of the Colony.

It appears that under the provisions of the new assessment on Runs Act a sum of 87,858*l.* was raised during the year, and that by the expiry of the old assessment on Stock Act there was a decrease of 30,911*l.* By this change there accrues to the Consolidated Revenue a gain of 56,947*l.*

* No alteration having been made in the tariff, the effect of the depression amongst the industrial population is here plainly discernible, as we have seen it equally evidenced in the reduced deposits in the savings' bank. There are no surer indications of the prosperity or otherwise of the labouring classes than those which are exhibited in the diminished or increased consumption of dutiable commodities, and by the rate of deposits in the savings' bank.

Amongst the miscellaneous receipts in the comparative statement will be noticed the large sums placed to the credit of the revenue in 1857 from the sale of debentures, amounting in the whole to 345,055*l.*, whilst in the following year a total sum of 76,776*l.*, including 40,600*l.* Treasury bills, only was brought to credit from this source. I merely notice this to account for the large balance which the general totals at the foot of the statement show against the increase already noticed, but which cannot be taken into account as ordinary revenue.

65. With regard to the expenditure of the year, the comparative statement shows an increase of 28,034*l.* on that of the year before, viz.:—

1857 - - - - -	£1,543,328 14 4
1858 - - - - -	1,571,363 0 6

The causes of increase, or of decrease, are given as notes to the statement, and of the increase just noticed the following form the chief items, viz.:—

Civil establishments - - - -	£18,567
Police - - - - - -	49,671
Railways - - - - - -	51,467
Public works, roads, &c. - - - -	29,322
Surveys - - - - - -	16,329
Drawbacks - - - - -	11,887
Miscellaneous - - - - -	8,266

The chief items of decrease are found in the—

Naval and Military allowances - - -	13,296
Interest on loans - - - -	31,390
Debentures paid off - - - -	5,800
Immigration - - - - -	49,571
Loan services - - - - -	77,562

Public Debt.

66. The state of the public debt will be found fully set forth in the Auditor General's statement, which closes the volume.

It appears that, on the 1st January 1858, the debt amounted to - -	£2,306,150
that we paid off during the year - - - - -	50,000
Leaving - -	2,256,150
that we incurred a new debt of - - - - -	540,940
which leaves a total debt, on the 31st December 1858, of	£2,797,090

Conclusion.

67. Although this report has extended beyond the limits originally contemplated, the subjects suggested for consideration are far from exhausted; I leave them, however, for the individual study of those who may wish to pursue the inquiry. Statistics when carefully collected and collated are replete with interest and utility. As with the merchant so with a nation, a periodical investigation into the state of the national ledger is not only interesting, but essential to the right understanding of the state and progress of the public interests; and I trust that the insight which this cursory review has afforded us into the condition of our national resources will be productive of this advantage at least, that we shall no longer look upon the social facts collected as a barren array of figures, put together without order, meaning, or utility, but that it will lead to a more careful study of them, and by this means direct us in our endeavours to promote the public good.

68. That there is much room for improvement I am free to admit, and I trust, for the mutual benefit of these Colonies, that with the hearty co-operation of the Registrar General of Victoria, of which I am assured, we may be able to produce a better systematization of those great social facts which in the aggregate form the truest, if not the only reliable evidence of the physical, moral, and industrial progress of a country.

69. Negotiations are already on foot for an uniform enumeration of the people in the whole of the Australian Colonies, to correspond with the period of the great decennial census of Great Britain and Ireland; and I trust the other Colonies, and also New Zealand, will cordially unite with Mr. Archer and myself in this important work, by means of which a multitude of prejudices may be dissipated, and the federal interests of the whole Australian group may be very materially promoted.

70. In order to place before you a complete view of the Colony's progress from the earliest period to which the official records extend, I append a table exhibiting at one glance the progressive development of the most important of her resources. It embraces a period of thirty-seven years, commencing with the year 1821; and it may safely be affirmed, that if any person at that day had ventured to predict the extraordinary advance in wealth and population of which the table exhibits such convincing proof, and of which the short history of the sister Colony of Victoria (the offspring of this development) forms a still more remarkable illustration, he would have been looked upon as a dreamer or a lunatic; but if we read the history aright, we shall hope for the future by what we know of the past; and not confining our views to the exigencies of the day, or to the restricted wants of our comparatively small community, but extending them into the future, we shall endeavour to minister to the advancement of the national industry, the elevation of the national character, and to the promotion of the federative union and prosperity of the Anglo-Australian people. Adam Smith says, that plenty of good land, and liberty to manage their own affairs in their own way, are the chief elements of colonial prosperity. If he is right, Australia ought surely in her onward progress to exhibit a development, that even the history of the western world will not be able to outvie.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

71. Having been desired to try whether the annual statistics could not be prepared at an earlier period of the year than had been customary, it is right that I should say a word or two on this head: I see only one reason against their being ready by the middle of the year at latest, but the obstacles are beyond my control; I allude to the difficulties and delays which are experienced in getting in the returns, and to the subsequent references and correspondence relating to them. If these obstructions were overcome, the compilation might certainly be expedited by two months. With reference to the present occasion, it must not be forgotten, that on the transference of the duty to my hands the services of the chief statistical clerk were dispensed with, and that the volume has been prepared with one clerk, at a cost of 230*l.*, in the place of two clerks at a cost of 780*l.*, being a saving of 550*l.* exclusive of the printing.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
CHRIS. ROLLESTON,
Registrar General.

Statistical View of the Progress of New South Wales, from the Year 1821 to 1858 inclusive.

Year.	Population.	Births.	Marriages.	Deaths.	Schools.		Convictions.	Mills, &c.	Manufactories, Works, &c.	Number of Acres under cultivation.	Live Stock.				Coal raised.	Land Sales.	Shipping				Export of				Value of Total Imports.	Value of Total Exports.	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Year.
					Schools.	Number of Scholars.					Horses.	Horned Cattle.	Pigs.	Sheep.	Value.	Amonnt realized	Inwards.		Outwards.		Wool. (Value.)	Tallow and Lard. (Value.)	Oil, &c. (Value.)	Coal (Value.)					
																	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.									
															£	£						£	£	£	£	£	£	£	
1821	*29,783	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	36,231	—	1821
1822	30,756	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	138,575	—	—	71	22,924	60	20,793	(172,880lbs.)	—	—	—	Unknown	Unknown	45,210	46,429	1822
1823	31,729	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	177,935	—	—	71	20,824	77	22,332	(198,240lbs.)	—	—	—	Ditto	Ditto	—	—	1823
1824	32,702	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	184,836	—	279	—	—	—	—	(275,760lbs.)	—	—	—	—	—	49,471	—	1824
1825	33,675	442	239	392	—	—	—	—	—	45,514½	6,142	134,519	39,005	237,622	—	5,548	85	24,559	75	22.688	(411,600lbs.)	—	—	—	300,000	100.000	71,682	93,020	1825
1826	34,649	529	278	502	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2,596	62	17,178	60	17,020	(552,960lbs.) £48,384	—	34,850	—	360,000	100,600	72,221	97,866	1826
1827	35,623	No Returns.			—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2,274	103	26,508	63	14,501	(407,116lbs.) £24,306‡	—	31,296	—	362,324	76,314	79,310	114,510	1827
1828	*36,598	681	317	632	—	—	217	—	—	71,523	12,479	262,868	—	536,391	—	5,004	137	32,559	69	20,186	40,851	—	26,431	—	§570,000	90,050	96,713	97,952	1828
1829	41,450	680	336	615	54	2,003	273	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2,710	158	37,342	168	37,586	63,555	—	55,975	—	601,004	161,716	102,785	110,126	1829
1830	46,302	683	339	570	—	—	275	54	84	—	—	—	—	—	—	943	157	31,225	147	28,822	34,907	—	59,471	—	420,480	141,461	104,729	102,125	1830
1831	51,155	911	436	615	—	—	361	72	68	—	—	—	—	—	—	2,597	155	34,000	165	35,252	75,979	—	95,969	—	490,152	324,168	121,066	103,228	1831
1832	53,524	1,254	619	880	—	—	425	78	63	—	—	—	—	—	—	12,509	189	41,350	194	42,857	73,559	2,734	147,409	—	604,620	384,344	135,847	115,004	1832
1833	*60,794	1,560	698	1,150	—	—	565	60	62	60,520	—	—	—	—	124	24,956	210	50,164	213	49,702	103,692	—	146,855	—	713,972	394,801	164,741	126,693	1833
1834	66,212	1,857	705	1,164	—	—	685	71	58	74,811	—	—	—	—	3,750	41,844	245	58,532	220	53,373	213,628	—	157,334	—	991,990	587,640	205,443	138,660	1834
1835	71,592	1,803	744	1,453	—	—	771	76	82	79,256	—	—	—	—	5,483	80,784	260	63,019	269	66,964	299,587	598	180,349	—	1,114,805	682,193	274,591	171,044	1835
1836	*77,096	2,120	774	1,628	—	3,391	—	66	77	87,432	—	—	—	—	5,747	126,458	269	65,414	264	62,834	369,324	633	140,220	—	1,237,406	748,624	330,579	217,877	1836
1837	85,267	2,270	916	1,799	—	—	—	74	71	92,125	—	—	—	—	7,828	120,427	400	80,114	402	78,020	332,166	—	183,122	—	1,297,491	760,054	354,802	305,388	1837
1838	97,912	2,836	970	2,104	—	5,843	—	—	—	92,912	—	—	—	—	8,399	116,324	428	91,777	409	93,004	405,977	—	197,644	—	1,579,277	802,768	335,294	499,396	1838
1839	114,386	3,335	1,157	2,496	166	6,790	912	77	100	95,312	—	—	—	—	10,441	152,962	563	135,474	548	124,776	442,504	—	172,315	—	2,236,371	948,776	458,301	579,765	1839
1840	129,463	4,233	1,631	2,382	167	9,040	832	97	59	126,116	—	—	—	—	16,498	316,626	709	178,958	665	163,704	566,122	—	224,144	—	3,014,189	1,399,692	683,112	570,032	1840
1841	*149,669	5,204	1,924	2,894	209	9,632	725	85	61	115,130	—	—	—	—	20,905	90,387	714	183,778	690	172,118	517,537	—	127,470	—	2,527,988	1,023,397	493,980	232,298	1841
1842	159,889	6,333	2,511	2,717	257	11,174	693	117	69	126,874	56,585	897,219	46,086	4,804,946	23,940	14,574	628	143,921	633	134,970	595,175	—	77,012	—	1,455,059	1,067,411	428,731	498,182	1842
1843	165,541	7,182	1,848	2,293	317	12,507	654	121	95	146,165	62,017	1,017,316	57,767	5,055,337	16,222	11,297	558	110,864	564	110,026	685,647	9,639	72,989	—	1,550,544	1,172,320	350,891	369,490	1843
1844	173,377	7,956	1,815	2,141	355	14,472	616	134	96	144,661	71,169	1,159,432	56,242	5,604,644	12,363	7,402	417	87,539	569	109,242	645,344	83,511	57,493	—	931,260	1,128,115	310,953	345,584	1844
1845	181,556	8,522	1,837	2,128	367	16,516	594	145	121	163,979	82,303	1,348,022	60,008	6,202,031	8,769	18,451	597	105,352	614	103,961	1,099,242	102,746	96,804	—	1,233,854	1,555,986	366,687	292,769	1845
1846	*196,704	8,473	1,796	2,550	394	19,033	651	138	124	183,360	88,126	1,430,736	45,600	7,906,811	13,714	27,060	767	141,467	754	134,998	1,019,985	28,107	70,126	—	1,630,522	1,481,539	352,778	290,092	1846
1847	205,009	8,910	1,861	2,694	438	21,814	551	144	122	165,784	104,271	1,614,967	62,670	10,071,625	13,750	62,801	878	154,904	933	168,664	1,272,118	108,186	80,528	—	1,982,023	1,870,046	396,260	413,073	1847
1848	220.474	8,826	1,809	2,587	462	23,374	571	172	133	164,664	113,895	1,752,852	70,875	11,660,819	14,275	47,262	996	199,304	945	187,322	1,240,144	140,579	68,969	—	1,556,550	1,830,368	396,863	460,531	1848
1849	246,299	9,842	2,365	3,435	558	25,682	668	168	186	182,739	121,859	1,810,213	58,674	12,102,540	14,647	85,734	898	218,967	907	214,056	1,238,559	249,932	45,468	4,593	1,793,420	1,891,270	575,692	516,533	1849
1850	265,503	10,037	2,825	3,379	659	28,604	666	182	206	198,056½	132,437	1,738,965	61,631	13,059,324	23,375	156,698	976	234,215	1,014	263,849	1,614,241	300,721	29,368	15,558	2,078,338	2,399,580	633,711	567,165	1850
1851	*†197,168	7,675	1,915	2,600	423	21,120	574	151	140	153,117½	116,397	1,375,257	65,510	7,396,895	25,546	64,425	553	153,002	503	139,020	828,302	114,168	25,877	12,027	1,563,931	1,796,912	486,698	444,108	1851
1852	208,254	7,866	2,175	3,605	351	23,668	527	145	141	131,730½	123,404	1,495,984	78,559	7,707,917	36,885	55,808	721	197,366	701	175,960	676,815	146,811	34,562	109,951	1,900,436	4,604,034	682,137	600,322	1852
1853	231,088	8,860	2,569	4,176	420	25,660	604	143	141	139,014½	139,765	1,552,285	71,395	7,929,708	78,059	211,035	1,048	336,852	1,061	341,540	999,896	134,708	25,490	81,078	6,342,397	4,523,346	987,477	682,621	1853
1854	251,315	9,663	2,761	4,511	413	25,953	637	140	146	131,857	148,851	1,576,750	63,255	8,144,119	119,380	319,533	1,058	376,927	1,112	409,489	1,181,956	164,256	28 155	101,752	5,981,063	4,050,126	1,239,147	1,136,569	1854
1855	277,579	10,344	2,765	4,022	476	27,243	526	147	224	171,100½	158,159	1,858,407	68,091	8,602,499	89,082	270,636	1,152	353,323	1,185	362,482	1,078,017	123,255	20,770	58,893	4,668,519	2,884,130	1,660,710	1,675,024	1855
1856	*286,873	10,097	2,778	4,203	565	29,426	461	154	278	186,033¾	168,929	2,023,418	105,998	7,736,323	117,906	245,555	1,143	321,679	1,219	336,113	1,303,070	137,202	25,355	65,730	5,460,971	3,430,880	1,986,553	1,835,134	1856
1857	305,487	12,501	2,902	4,846	550	29,236	395	157	261	184,513¾	180,053	2,148,664	109,166	8,139,162	148,158	210,333	1.100	351,413	1,204	377,147	1,275,067	82,134	32,306	45,960	6,729,408	4,011,952	1,531,137	1,543,328	1857
1858	342,062	13,802	2,992	5,883	653	33,236	415	169	295	217,443½	200,713	2,110,604	92,843	7,581,762	162,162	240,633	1,141	348,984	1,154	366,925	1,126,486	53,186	1,450	89,200	6,059,366	4,186,277	1,456,451	1,570,566	1858

* The Census was taken in 1821, 2, 3, 5, population as above.
1828, population 36,598 (exclusive of runaway convicts, estimated at 2,000)
1833, " 60,794
1836, " 77,096
1841, " 130,856
1846, " 189,609
1851, " 187,243
1856, " 266,189

† The reduction in the year 1851 was caused by the separation of Port Philip from New South Wales.

‡ The decrease in the export of wool during 1827 is to be attributed to its low price in England.

§ The value of the produce of the Fisheries was not includded in 1828.

Price of land in 1825, 7*s.* 6*d.* to 10*s.* per acre.

The minimum price of land was 5*s.* per acre from 1832 to 1840; 12*s.* per acre 1840-2. (20*s.* in Port Philip, in 1841.)
20*s.* per acre from 1843 to present time.

The area of New South Wales is - - - 306,471,588 acres.

Number of acres granted to the end of 1858,—3,680.481
Ditto sold ditto 2,791,107
6,471,588

Total unalienated - - 300,000,000 acres.

The Export of Gold produced in New South Wales cannot be correctly given on account of the quantity of Victorian Gold included in the Exports from this Colony.

Total quantity exported in	Ozs.	dwts.	grs.	Value £
1851 -	144,120	17	16	468,336
1852 -	818,751	18	17	2,660,946
1853 -	548,052	19	21	1,781,172
1854 -	237,910	13	23	773,209
1855 -	64,384	14	3	209,250
1856 -	42,463	17	1	138,007

Total quantity exported in	Ozs.	dwts.	grs.	Value £	Total 1857
1857 - 48,982	6	0	-	187,249	1,102,160
1857 - Coin, Value			-	796,601	1,102,160
1857 - British and other Coin				118,310	1,102,160
					Total 1858
1858 - 22,660	0	0	-	90,650	1,511,919
1858 - Coin, &c.			-	904,310	1,511,919
1858 - Other Coin			-	516,959	1,511,919

No return of Coin previous to 1857.

In 1822, 3, 4, 5, the accounts were kept in Spanish dollars and British money, generally in Spanish dollars.

Transportation ceased in 1840.

The Return of the Revenue and Expenditure previous to 1850 cannot be accurately ascertained. In addition to the above Expenditure, the Imperial Government paid large sums for the maintenance of Convicts and Military.

Gold discovered in May 1851.

A statement of the overland traffic with Victoria was introduced among the Returns for the first time in 1858, viz.:—
Imports, 349,951*l.* Exports, 574,550*l.*

VICTORIA.

VICTORIA.

No. 13.

No. 13.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir HENRY BARKLY, K.C.B., to the Right Honourable SIR EDWARD B. LYTTON, Bart., M.P.

(No. 79.)

SIR, Government Offices, Melbourne, 23d August 1859.

I RECEIVED the Blue Book for 1858 on the day for closing the last mail, and was not aware when forwarding it that the usual statements of revenue and expenditure had been omitted, on the ground of their not having been finally audited.

2. Such a punctilio may be advisable so far as concerns the Colonial Legislature, for whose use these annual statistics are now printed; but as the queries and surcharges of the Commissioners of the Audit cannot materially affect the references I may have to make to the general state of the finances, I have had the statements in question appended to the copies of the "Blue Book" herewith transmitted.

3. The year 1858, if not one of brilliant results to this colony, witnessed its continued steady advancement, and must ever be remarkable in its history for the commencement of the great trunk lines of railway to the gold fields, which had been so long in contemplation.

4. At the beginning of the year the community was still suffering from the effects of the commercial panic which swept over Europe and America in the autumn of 1857, and though the rapid reaction which followed at home soon extended to the Colonial trade, the returns now sent bear many traces of the severity of the previous crisis.

5. Passing by those relative to the Civil Service, as interesting chiefly to the colonists themselves, the first table, as to the population, shows, for example, a much smaller increase through Immigration than in preceding years, a result owing in all probability to the unfavourable reports from the colony which had reached the mother country.

6. The increase nevertheless from all causes was by no means inconsiderable; the nett addition by immigration being over 18,000, exclusive of 11,000 Chinese, making altogether, with an excess of 11,000 births over deaths, a total of some 40,000, which brought the population at the close of the year beyond half a million souls. Of these it appears from the next table, precisely two-fifths were located in the auriferous districts of the colony.

7. In the social condition of this large population no striking change would seem to have occurred within the year. The first of the Returns which follows shows that the number of lunatics in the Public Asylum near Melbourne had risen from 349 to 451, but this is due to improved arrangements for forwarding such patients from the country gaols, where they used to be taken care of, and not, I imagine, to any spread of lunacy. Diseases of this class have been said indeed to be peculiarly prevalent in Victoria, in consequence both of the exciting nature of gold-mining, and the excessive consumption of ardent spirits; but the figures here given afford good ground for a contrary belief, since presuming 500 lunatics to be in confinement throughout the colony, it would be 1 in 1,000 of its population, whereas in the British Isles it is stated at 1 in 700 at the least.

8. The number of suicides was one above that of the preceding year, 60 instead of 59, but the ratio is not large.

9. Returns connected with the intellectual advancement of the people come next in the regular order. The number of letters and newspapers passed through the post-office shows an enormous increase, doubtless through the greater facilities every day offered. The former now exceeds five millions, whilst the latter falls little short of the same number.

10. The number of churches and chapels might at first sight be supposed, from the next Return, to have diminished since 1857, but this arises merely from the separation in an additional column of such buildings as are not exclusively devoted to religious purposes, which in a newly settled country are, of course, numerous. Disregarding this new mode of classification, there is an increase from 587 to 647 in the year.

11. The Returns as to schools evince equally satisfactory progress. The total number of children receiving education rose from 36,681 to 42,432. At private schools the

increase was trifling—3,437 to 3,545; the great extension being on the part of the two systems supported simultaneously by the State; the Denominational School Board increasing its schools from 439 to 456, and the attendance at them from 27,124 to 30,553, whilst the National Board, extending its operations in even more rapid proportion, raised its schools from 101 to 139, its scholars from 6,113 to 8,334. So keen, indeed, was the competition between the rival systems for the annual public grant, that it spread to Parliament itself, nearly leading to a collision between the two Houses, if not to a change of ministry, just as the session was over; but at the same time convincing those who view the question as one of higher moment than mere party politics that a speedy amalgamation of the two systems is essentially necessary.

12. There is one other Return, a few pages further on, to which I may advert in connection with this part of my subject, that, namely, of the number of visitors to the Public Library in Melbourne, one of the most creditable and extraordinary institutions in the world, as it is really what its name imports — free to everybody who chooses to enter and take down a book from its shelves without let or hindrance of any sort. The visits augmented from 49,227 to 77,928 within the year, and will no doubt become more and more numerous still, as a new wing, of what when complete will be a very handsome structure, was publicly opened by me upon Her Majesty's birthday, and additions are daily made to the collection which it is expected will by the 31st December next amount to 25,000 volumes.

13. Keeping still to Returns which exhibit the moral condition of the population, in a less favourable light, I am sorry to say, than its intellectual, I proceed to those relating to criminals, and am disappointed to find that the convictions in the Supreme Court show a serious increase both of felonies and of misdemeanors. I think this is to be attributed, as I have before explained, to the expiration of sentences on the desperadoes who flocked hither from the adjacent convict colonies in the early days of the gold-fields; but from whatever cause arising it is an alarming feature in our social state.

14. The number of criminals executed for capital offences was 9. The particulars, now first appended in regard to each individual, will serve to indicate the heterogeneous composition of the population on the gold fields, where their crimes were all perpetrated; Italy, Germany, Sweden, and the United States contributing their quota to the number of offenders of British origin.

15. On comparing the Returns as to gaols and prisons, the number of persons committed during 1858 will be found a trifle lower than in 1857, and the greatest number at any one time in confinement was also somewhat less, 856 in lieu of 938.

16. The Stockades and Hulks contained likewise fewer inmates undergoing punishment for grave offences. The new General Penitentiary, still called the "Pentridge Stockade," is, I am happy to report, rapidly approaching completion under the zealous and intelligent superintendence of the Inspector General of the Convict Department, Mr. Champ; and as the various portions become fit for occupation, the Hulks in Hobson's Bay are abandoned, one only in fact still remaining in use.

17. Of the charitable institutions of the colony fuller particulars than heretofore will be found. Hospitals exist in all the principal towns, supported partly by voluntary contributions, partly by grants from Parliament. Benevolent asylums, supplying, in the absence of a poor law, eleemosynary aid to a limited extent, have long been in operation at Melbourne and Geelong, and are about being organised in some of the larger gold fields towns, where they are much required. Four institutions for the reception of orphans are also in existence. Lastly, numerous friendly societies and benefit clubs have been established for themselves by the working classes, who wisely prefer depending on their own exertions to receiving assistance in the shape of charity from others. The continued increase of depositors in the various savings banks, with the large amount deposited during the year (362,678*l.*), also furnishes favourable testimony to the provident habits of many of their number.

18. Two other Returns, bearing on the condition of a part of the population, will lead naturally to the consideration of those more directly illustrative of the material progress of the colony. The first shows the number of civil cases tried in the Supreme Court to have been somewhat smaller than in the previous year, so that litigation is not apparently on the increase. By the second it would seem that the number of insolvents was more than trebled—646 as compared with 210 in 1857; but this must not be attributed simply to the disastrous state of trade, as might be inferred; indeed, from the fact of the total liabilities in the schedules of 1858 being actually smaller, say 780,000*l.* as against 846,000*l.* in 1857, whilst the estimated value of assets was considerably larger, it is clearly referable, on the contrary, to the passing of "Fellows's Act," as it is popularly termed, in November 1857, whereby the jurisdiction of justices was extended to debts (No. 29—"for the more easy recovery of certain Debts and Demands.")

VICTORIA.

not exceeding 20*l.*, many being thus driven into the Insolvent Court to avoid imprisonment, who had heretofore managed to set the law at defiance.

19. The Return of mortgages on land indicates that the system of buying it with borrowed capital still continues, and will no doubt do so in the present phase of the land question; the squatter when the best portion of his run is surveyed for sale, bidding not merely as far as his ready money will permit, but drawing to the utmost on his credit with the banks, an unhealthy practice, even though the advance be soon paid off; as, whilst a large capital is thus locked up in the station, neither the wool nor the stock are thereby rendered more profitable. As such accommodation is frequently renewed, and the deeds re-registered, the annual returns afford but little clue to the extent to which the land of the colony is actually mortgaged; but it must be enormous, as the sums registered in 1858 alone amounted to 1,800,000*l.*

20. Another unusual, though perhaps more legitimate, feature in colonial business, is exemplified in the succeeding Return of "Preferable Liens on Wool and Mortgages on Live Stock," which fell little short of a million within the year. When it is considered that in 1850, the year prior to the gold discovery, the mortgages registered on all descriptions of property were under 380,000*l.*, or but a tithe of the present amount, some idea may be formed of the wealth which has been realised by the lending class, and of the stimulus in consequence given to trade. The banks alone on 31st December 1858, held 6,000,000*l.* on deposit, which, of course, they had to re-employ.

21. As the business of these institutions is the best index of the state of the money market, it may be well to remark, although the only Returns in connection with them in the Blue Book relate to "the Course of Exchange," and to "the Amount of Paper Currency," that their position was extremely flourishing at the end of the year. By the month of June, in fact, the effects of the commercial crisis had been so entirely surmounted by prudent management, that six of the principal banks felt themselves at liberty to undertake heavy responsibilities towards the Colonial Government in connection with the Railway Loan, and though, as will be seen from the following comparison, their issue of notes did not rise to its previous aggregate, they were able to do so without any appreciable contraction of accommodation to the general public.

	31st Dec. 1857.	31st Dec. 1858.
	£	£
Deposits in the Banks - -	6,100,000	5,908,000
Notes in circulation - - -	2,280,000	2,005,000
Total of Liabilities - - -	8,730,000	8,212,000
Coin and Bullion in Banks - -	2,556,000	2,693,000
Debts due to the Banks - -	8,125,000	8,154,000
Total of Assets - - -	11,862,000	11,851,000

22. The finances of the colony will be found from the accounts now transmitted in an equally sound state.

	£
The total Receipts of Revenue for and during the year amounted to - - - - - - - - -	2,944,612
The Expenditure for 1858 brought to account within the year was but - - - - - - - -	2,365,855
thus leaving - - - - - - - -	578,757

to meet claims for the last quarter liquidated in 1859. The amount of these cannot yet be stated; but as the expenditure for 1857, brought to account in 1858, was, after deduction of overdue receipts, only 494,949*l.*, it may safely be inferred that the revenue of the last-named year not merely covered the expenditure, but left a considerable surplus to swell the cash balance at credit of the Colony.

23. This is extremely satisfactory, looking to the further fact shown by the comparison of the receipts with those of 1857, that, owing to the reduced quantity of land put up for sale during Mr. Duffy's presidency at that Board, the aggregate included under the head of revenue was nearly 300,000*l.* less, and would in fact have exceeded half a million in deficiency but for the increased assessment levied upon the squatters. Putting both these disturbing causes aside, the actual revenue of the two years was as nearly as may be on a par, the increase in the customs and postage in 1858 counterbalancing a decrease in the items classed as Miscellaneous.

24. Notwithstanding the increase just alluded to in receipts for duty on imported goods, the value of imports in 1858 was, as might have been anticipated from the crisis at home, much below that of 1857. The value of exports too was less, though not in

the same ratio, the decline being altogether in raw gold and specie, other articles showing an increase, especially wool. The comparison stands on the whole thus:

	1857.	1858.
Imports - - - -	£17,256,209	£15,108,249
Exports - - - -	15,079,512	13,989,209
Difference - - -	2,176,697	1,119,040
Value of Gold - -	10,988,000	10,108,000
„ Specie - -	951,000	605,000
„ other Exports -	3,050,000	3,275,000
„ Wool - -	1,335,642	1,678,290

It will thus be seen that the value of the other articles, the produce of the Colony exported, such as hides, tallow, leather, bark, gum, cattle, horses, &c., is by no means inconsiderable, and in fact it exceeds largely the value of the entire exports, wool inclusive, at the period of the discovery of gold.

25. Victoria, besides her auriferous treasures, is destined to be a great agricultural country when sufficiently peopled to admit of labour being cheaper, and the demand for the produce of the soil more extensive. The extent of land cultivated appears from the Tables given to be still increasing as rapidly as ever, the number of acres under tillage in each of the three last years having been:

1857 - - -	180,000	
1858 - - -	238,000	Increase 58,000 Acres.
1859 - - -	299,000	„ 61,000 „

The cultivation of wheat nevertheless does not extend, as it is cheaper to import it as flour from the neighbouring Colonies, and to grow instead oats and green crops. In place of so doing, a cry for protection has been of late raised in some parts of the Colony, and echoed back by the workmen in certain callings; but I trust the good sense of the community will revolt at the idea of a number of Englishmen settled on one side of a geographical line attempting to tax the industry of another set of Englishmen settled on the other side of that imaginary boundary, which in effect this proposition for imposing protecting duties between the different Australian Colonies amounts to.

26. Should no rash experiments of this sort be tried, there seems no limit to the degree of prosperity which this Colony would in the course of a few years of tranquillity attain, nor in spite of the grumblings on political and social grievances which are occasionally heard, is there in my conscientious opinion any people in the world who had more cause to be contented and happy than its inhabitants during the year 1858.

I have, &c.

HENRY BARKLY.

The Right Honourable
Sir Edward B. Lytton, Bart., M.P.

TASMANIA.

No. 14.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Sir H. E. F. YOUNG to the Right Hon. Sir E. BULWER LYTTON, Bart., M.P.

(No. 46.)

SIR, Government House, Hobart Town, June 10, 1859.

I have the honour to transmit herewith the statistics and other information relative to the Colony of Tasmania, usually styled the "Annual Blue Book," for the year 1858.

It was received from the office of the Colonial Secretary on the 9th.

I proceed to lay before you the principal results of the past year.

Population.

The population on the 31st December 1858 is estimated at 84,420 persons—viz. 45,916 males, and 34,886 females.

The number of persons who arrived in the Colony during the year is 4,003; of those who left it, 4,496; the births 3,138; deaths, 1,562; marriages, 779. The number of immigrants who were introduced into the Colony under the Government Regulations is 479, at an expenditure of 5,586*l.* 14*s.*, or about 11*l.* 13*s.* per head.

TASMANIA.

The return of convictions in the Supreme Court shows the number of misdemeanors to be 37. The felonies were 113. The number executed in 1858 was—convicts, 2; persons who had been convicts, 3; total, 5. The greatest number in confinement at any one time of 1858, in the common Colonial gaols of the island, was 134.

The Supreme Court civil cases were 34 in number. The civil cases tried before the Court of Requests, with jurisdiction varying from 10*l.* to 30*l.*, were 152 in number.

The number of persons declared insolvent was 157, whose liabilities were 130,693*l.*, and assets 44,212*l.*

The number of mortgages registered was 348, representing an amount of 231,153*l.* The imports from Great Britain were at the rate of 8*l.* 12*s.* per caput of the population. The exports to Great Britain, 5*l.* 1*s.* 4½*d.* The total imports at the rate of 15*l.* 8*s.* 1½d. The total exports at the rate of 13*l.* 9*s.* 1½*d.* The export of wool is about the same in 1858 as in 1857—viz., between four and five millions of pounds of wool. The agricultural produce and timber exported in 1858 was about the value of 495,742*l.* The sheep and cattle imported for food are reckoned at a value of 114,358*l.* The quantity of spirits consumed by the adults population is on the decrease. In 1858 it was at the rate of 2½ gallons, and six years previously it was nearly $5\frac{5}{7}$ gallons.

The number of patients treated at the different Colonial hospitals was 1,967, and the deaths 199.

Education.

There are 78 schools receiving public aid, to the extent of 10,711*l.* 9*s.* 8*d.*, the number of children entered on the rolls being 4191. There are numerous private schools dependent on their own resources.

Under sanction of the Act 22 Victoria, No. 21, eight scholarships, of the yearly value of 200*l.* each, tenable by Tasmanian youths of 16 to 20 years of age, at the universities of England, Scotland, or Ireland, were provided for by the legislature at the public expense.

The scholarships are tenable for four years, and the first two will be awarded in 1861, two more being filled up in each succeeding year. No candidate is to be considered eligible for a Tasmanian scholarship in Great Britain, unless he has obtained in the Colony the degree of A.A., or "Associate of Arts."

The conditions attaching to the scholarship are,—That the person to whom it is awarded shall, within six months after obtaining it, proceed to the United Kingdom, and at once matriculate at some university; that he shall continue at college until the scholarship expires by effluxion of time, or until he has obtained his university degree; and that he shall apply himself to the prescribed course of study with proper diligence.

The Tasmanian Council of Education comprises—

The Right Rev. The Lord Bishop of TASMANIA.
The Right Rev. Dr. WILLSON, the Roman Catholic Bishop.
Chief Justice Sir VALENTINE FLEMING.
His Honor Mr. Justice HORN.
The Rev. J. G. MACINTOSH of the Church of Scotland.
The Rev. J. R. BUCKLAND of the Hutchins School.
The Hon. W. E. NAIRN, Esq., M.L.C.
The Hon. E. S. P. BEDFORD, Esq., M.L.C.
T. D. CHAPMAN, Esq., M.H.A.
MAXWELL MILLER, Esq., M.H.A.
R. OFFICER, Esq., M.H.A.
H. F. ANSTEY, Esq., M.H.A.
Rev. G. CLARKE, Congregationalist Minister.

Mr. Julius Hutzer, M.A. of Cambridge, and late Hon. Professor of King's College, London, has recently been appointed Inspector of Schools in the Southern District of the Island.

Lands.

The quantity of land sold was 45,059 acres, yielding the amount of 52,833*l.* 9*s.* 11*d.* with an average of 1*l.* 3*s.* 5¼*d.* for country lots, and 7*l.* 6*d.* 2½*d.* for town and suburban, per acre.

The acreage held under depasturing licenses is 1,778,751 at an aggregate rental of 23,854*l.* 0*s.* 7*d.*

The acreage alienated by sale or grant is 2,900,637.

The total area of the island is estimated to be 14,482,892.

The existing land regulations came into operation in February 1858, by Act No. 33 of the 21st Victoria.

From February to 31st December 1858 1423 acres of township lands, 4440 acres agricultural, and 9403 acres pastoral were sold for cash, realizing 6,980*l.* for townships, 5,138*l.* for agricultural, and 1,950*l.* for pastoral lands. The sales on credit were 780 acres of township for 10,608*l.*; agricultural 18,941 acres for 25,736*l.*; and pastoral 7,573 for 10,505*l.*

For the selection of lands by private contract (for the last ten months of 1858) there were 838 applications for a total area of 111,206 acres.

Lands under rental have been sold at auction (within the same period) to the extent of 17,325 acres realising 20,882*l.*; and 4,201 acres were obtained by private contract, after being exposed at auction, for 5,220*l.*; and leases have been given of 112 lots with an area of 80,241 acres.

The Act above referred to applies only to an area not quite one fourth of Tasmania, viz. to about 3,601,287 acres, and comprises, in the opinion of the present Surveyor-General, its forests of large growth and its poorer lands.

The largest and best portions of Tasmania are beyond the present reach of the Act, because of exceptions arising out of antecedent land regulations, having an average duration of only about four years each, of which I subjoin the dates, viz.:

29th April 1828.
16th February 1832.
17th January 1839.
28th September 1843.
21st June 1847.
3d July 1848.
1st November 1851.
9th October 1854.

Between the years 1828 and 1836, the public lands of the island were granted away to the extent of 1,198,210 acres, and sales at five shillings an acre subtracted within the same period a further tract of 267,084 acres.

Prior to 1843 the waste lands were leased at auction; there was little or no competition, and the revenue was only about 600*l.* per annum. After 1843 the waste lands were disposed of by tender, and the revenue in the ensuing four years averaged rather more than 3,600*l.*

In 1847 they were offered for lease to the earliest applicant at 1*l.* for every 100 acres, and the revenue rose in 1851 to 21,400*l.* The settlement of the Colony, however, was not much accelerated: the waste lands remained mostly in the same hands, and were used as heretofore, almost exclusively for pasture of the natural herbage.

In 1851 leases were granted for ten years, with pre-emptive right to buy, on a credit of ten years, a block of 640 acres, at 1*l.* per acre. The purchase conferred also the "quiet enjoyment" for the said years of ten times the extent of leased land, supposing so much waste land to exist unoccupied and contiguous, and provided the usual rent of 1*l.* per 100 acres was paid. The period of "quiet enjoyment" was next extended from ten years to twenty years, provided actual residence on the land for five of the ten years could be established. This concession, therefore, has not yet commenced to be claimable. These regulations ended on 29th October 1854, but claims under them will not wholly expire until 1874. The "quiet enjoyment" concession was not, however, given as respects some of the lands in certain districts on the north and south coasts. The result of the regulations of 1851 is that 290,000 acres were purchased on ten years' credit, and the quiet enjoyment possession locks up 655,000 more acres.

Another very large exception to the operation of the Act 33 of 1858 is made by the Act 34 of 1858, styled the "Unsettled Lands Act," which grants in fee simple tracts not less than 50 acres, nor more than 640 acres, on certain conditions—viz., that the settler has capital equal to one pound per acre. A lease is also obtainable, on a peppercorn rent, for ten years, of 10,000 acres, on condition that within one year the land is stocked, and kept stocked in the ratio of 100 sheep, or 20 cattle, to every one thousand acres. This latter Act subtracts from the operation of the former Act nearly five millions of acres. The district in question has Ports Davey and Macquarie Harbour as outlets for shipment, and is watered by the rivers Arthur, Gordon, King, Huon, Florentine, and many minor streams, and comprises lakes Pedder and Richmond, and some extensive plains. In November and December, 1858, one million six hundred and fifty-six thousand acres were taken up on the terms above mentioned, in anticipation of the lands proving auriferous: an expectation that, for the present at least, is dispelled by the accompanying reports of two expeditions, costing respectively 700*l.* and 600*l.*, by private enterprise, to explore the country.

TASMANIA.

The first is by Mr. Tully, whose account is annexed,* together with comments thereon by the well-known geologist, the Rev. Mr. Clarke; the second report by Mr. Lewis.

The Tasmanian Government geologist, Mr. Charles Gould, recently appointed after selection by Sir Roderick Murchison, is now at Melbourne, for the purpose of inspecting the gold fields of Victoria, aided by Mr. Selwyn, the geologist of that Colony, preparatory to entering on his work in this island.

In the district of Fingal, where, in 1856, 2,000*l.* was appropriated by the Legislature to the trial of alluvial digging for gold without success, there is at this date a private quartz crushing company at work, with the result as yet of having obtained twenty ounces of gold as the maximum yield of fifty tons of quartz.

Finance.

The total general receipts, exclusive of land fund, during 1858, was 391,706*l.*, of which 134,608*l.* was derived from the Customs.

The expenditure on account of the public service of the Colony was 357,538*l.*

The Land Fund receipts were 207,818*l.*; the expenditure, 202,949*l.*

The returns furnished by the different banks and the Commissariat show the following result at the close of the year 1858:—

Coin and bullion - - -	£363,749
Notes in circulation - -	144,057
Deposits, &c. - - -	1,051,531
Bills of exchange - -	1,529,225

The declared value of imports and exports was—

Imports - - -	£1,328,612
Exports - - -	1,151,609

Of the exports for 1858, those produced in the island were valued at 861,884*l.*

Independently of the expenditure herein before mentioned there was disbursed by the Municipality of

Hobart Town - - -	£24,013
Launceston - - -	5,679

The public debt of the Colony at the end of 1858, consisting of outstanding debentures, was 274,260*l.*

The present local market price for the debentures is par.

Immigration.

The system of immigration known as the "Bounty" system still continues in operation. Some modification was made in the regulations affecting Government Immigrants, in December last; and I now annex a Copy of the Rules established by the Board.†

Legislation.

Forty Public and one Private Acts were passed in 1858, the titles of which are as follow:—

1. An Act to amend the Act of Council intituled "An Act for further improving the "Administration of Criminal Justice in the Colony of Van Diemen's Land."
2. An Act to amend the Laws relating to Imprisonment for Debt.
3. An Act to amend the Laws affecting Trade and Commerce.
4. An Act for preventing Frauds upon Creditors by Secret Bills of Sale of personal Chattels.
5. An Act to exempt Passengers, Animals, and Vehicles from Toll for repassing the Bridgewater Bridge once during the same Day.
6. An Act to alter the Tenure of the Office of the Colonial Auditor, and to provide for the more effectual Audit of the Public Accounts.
7. An Act to amend the Law relating to Offences against the Person.
8. An Act to render the Queen's Domain and the East Portion of the Launceston Swamp inalienable otherwise than by the special Authority of the Parliament of Tasmania.
9. An Act to extend the Provisions of the Trustee Act 1852.
10. An Act for transferring to the Supreme Court the Jurisdiction heretofore exercised by the Commissioners for examining into Claims for Grants of Land.

* These reports being voluminous are not printed.

† Not printed.

11. An Act to authorize the Formation of Volunteer Corps in Tasmania, and for the Regulation thereof.

12. An Act to incorporate the Burgesses of the Town of Launceston.

13. An Act to provide for Paving, Draining, Cleansing, Lighting, and Improving the Town of Launceston, and for promoting the Health, Safety, and Comfort of the Inhabitants thereof.

14. An Act to amend the Laws regulating the Supply of Water to the Town and Port of Launceston.

15. An Act for preventing Mischiefs by Fire in the City of Hobart Town.

16. An Act to empower Coroners to hold Inquests on Fires.

17. An Act to confer certain Powers and Privileges on the Houses of the Parliament of Tasmania.

18. An Act to repeal the Restdown Ferry Act.

19. An Act to amend the Law relating to the Estates of deceased Persons.

20. An Act to enable the Bishop, Clergy, and Laity of the United Church of England and Ireland in Tasmania to regulate the Affairs of the said Church.

21. An Act to establish a Council of Education with Power to grant a certain Degree, and to endow Scholarships tenable in the United Kingdom by the Youth of Tasmania.

22. An Act to regulate the granting of Letters Patent for Inventions.

23. An Act for the Regulation of the Care and Treatment of the Insane, and for the Appointment, Maintenance, and Regulation of Hospitals for the Insane.

24. An Act to amend the Hobart Town Corporation Act.

25. An Act to make further Provision for the Improvement of the City of Hobart Town.

26. An Act to amend the Laws regulating the Supply of Water to the City and Port of Hobart Town.

27. An Act to facilitate the Collection and Recovery of Rates.

28. An Act to decrease the Postage on Inland Letters and Packets.

29. An Act Supplementary to the Act for applying certain Sums arising from the General Revenue of the Colony of Tasmania to the Service thereof for the Year 1857.

30. An Act Supplemetary to the Act for applying certain Sums arsing from the General Revenue of the Colony of Tasmania to the Service thereof for the Year 1858.

31. An Act for applying certain Sums arising from the General Revenue of the Colony of Tasmania to the Service thereof for the Year 1859, and for further appropriating the said Revenue.

32. An Act for applying certain Sums arising from the General Revenue of the Colony of Tasmania to the Service thereof for the Year 1859, and for further Appropriating the said Revenue.

33. An Act for applying certain Sums arising from the General Revenue of the Colony of Tasmania to the Service thereof for the Year 1859.

34. An Act for applying certain Sums arising from the Land Revenue of the Colony of Tasmania to the Service thereof for the Year 1859, and for further appropriating the said Revenue.

35. An Act to authorize the raising of Loans for Public Works on the Security of the General Revenue of the Colony.

36. An Act to authorize the raising of Loans for Public Works on the Security of the Land Fund of the Colony.

37. An Act to authorize the raising of the Sum of 40,800*l.* by Debentures chargeable on the Land Fund of Tasmania, for making good the Supplies for the Public Service in the Year 1859.

38. An Act to authorize the raising of 6,000*l.* by Debentures for Public Works on the Security of the Land Fund of the Colony.

39. An Act to appropriate out of the Land Revenue of the Colony of Tasmania for the Year 1859, the Sum of 2,012*l.* 4*s.* 3*d.* in Compensation for Mr. Edward Abbott's Claim to 45 Acres of Land near Launceston.

40. An Act to amend the Act of the Parliament of Tasmania, intituled "An Act to "amend the Law relating to Offences against the Person."

Private Act.

An Act to simplify Proceedings at Law or in Equity by or against the Launceston Gas Company, to restrict within Certain Limits the Responsibility of the Shareholders, and for other Purposes.

TASMANIA.

I send, as an Enclosure to this Despatch, the Official Record of the Acts and Resolutions of the Synod of Tasmania in May 1859* :—

Military.

The effective force of Her Majesty's Troops in Tasmania at the present time consists of—

12 Officers,
15 Serjeants,
4 Drummers,
272 Rank and File.

No alterations have been made to the defensive works of the Colony since the last report.

Post Office.

The Revenue from the post office in 1858 was	£14,225
The Expenditure	17,370
The number of letters received at the post offices in Hobart Town and Launceston was	347,889
The number sent	314,812
The number of newspapers received	480,997
The number sent	874,998

besides 62,029 town letters.

By the Act of the Tasmanian Parliament, 22 Vict., No. 28, the rate of postage for inland letters, if sent beyond a radius of five miles from Hobart Town or Launceston, is reduced from 6*d.* to 4*d.* the half-ounce, the rate within that distance being 2*d.* the half-ounce. The rate of postage on inland and ship books and packets has also been reduced to 6*d.* the quarter-pound; ship-packets posted in the interior to be chargeable with both the inland and sea postage.

The ship letter rates remain at 6*d.* the half-ounce; 4*s.* for not exceeding four ounces, and an extra shilling for each ounce in excess of four ounces.

Whale Fishery.

The quantity of oil reported to have been landed during 1858 is: —

	Tons.	Gallons.
Black	612	138
Sperm	30	72
Black fish	7	53

and the value of that exported was declared at 48,208*l.*

During the year several vessels were added to those already engaged in the whale fishery, and three vessels were despatched to new ground in the southern latitudes, but no advantage appears to have arisen out of this expedition, the masters having preferred to return to their favourite haunts off the coast of New Zealand.

This service employed in 1858 a fleet of 23 vessels belonging to Colonial owners.

The Aborigines

Consist of 5 males and 9 females, whose subsistence and management cost 741*l.* in 1858. I append the most recent report of their superintendent.

Convicts.

At the end of 1858 there were 2,691 convicts in Tasmania, of whom 871 were maintained by the Government, and 1,748 not maintained by the Government, but earning their own livelihood. The expense of the convict establishments for the year 1858–59 was estimated at 62,793*l.*, of which about 23,000*l.* was expected from the Colony on account of the cost of Colonial prisoners maintained in the Imperial Convict Penal Station.

The estimated cost in 1855–56 was 132,551*l.*; in 1856–57, 96,164*l.*; in 1857–58, 60,328*l.*

The Retired Allowances List comprises at this date 56 names, of whom five are resident out of the Colony. The aggregate amount of salaries reduced may be inferred from the aggregate retired allowances, which is 3,576*l.*

* Not printed.

Introduction of Salmon.

An association of Australian proprietors in London have taken measures, at their own risk and expense, to introduce the ova of salmon into these colonies, and the experiment is to be first tried in the rivers of Tasmania, and the importation is expected daily.

This is likely to prove a boon which the resident colonists will highly appreciate from their absentee friends.

I subjoin an enumeration of the Returns which are contained in the volume of statistics accompanying this Despatch.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. E. F. YOUNG.

REPORT upon OYSTER COVE STATION, from the 1st January 1858, to 28th May 1859.

Upon the 1st January 1858 the aborigines kept at the Oyster Cove Station, numbered "fifteen,"
10 women, - - - - - 5 men,
the surviving remnants of no less than 10 tribes; of these that of Saint Patrick's Head musters the larger number, 3 women and 1 man; those of the Coal River and Bruné Island, each 2; the remainder are single representatives of the "Ben Lomond," "New Norfolk," and other tribes.

The age of these people it is not very easy to ascertain correctly; the following is probably as near the truth as it is possible to get:

1 Man of	-	-	-	22 years.
2 Men and 2 Women between			-	35 and 40.
1 Man and 3	do.	do.	-	40 and 45.
1 do. and 2	do.	above	-	50.
And 3 Women about		-	-	60.

One of the latter died in October last.

There are four married couples who live happily and comfortably together; the men treat the women for the most part with kindness (excepting when their bad passions are excited by drink), and the wives appear to have a strong and real affection for their husbands.

There have been no children born upon the station for, I believe, years; I have frequently been asked by strangers to assign a reason for this, but can only do so by adopting an opinion of a scientific writer, who, in treating the subject of the rapid disappearance of aboriginal races after the approach of the whites, states that after intercourse with white men, the native women, as a general rule, are incapacitated from bearing children to members of their own tribes.

In addition to the natives residing at the station, there is another woman of about 28 years of age, married to a white man of the name of Smith; the Government allows her a pension, (in lieu of rations and clothing) of about 25*l.* a year. She lives with her husband upon a farm granted to them by the Government, near Port Cygnet, and about 7 miles from this; after having been married for several years, she, a few months ago, had the happiness to present to her husband a little boy; he is a fine healthy looking child, of whom they and all the blacks are very proud.

Simple as their original language must have been, it had so many different dialects that it was frequently a matter of difficulty for the members of one family to understand those of another; now, however, they all seem to have merged into one, and that is generally used by the natives when talking by themselves. The men more frequently speak English, and speak it better than the women; in quarrelling, however, both invariably use the latter language, as it furnishes, I suppose, worse and more approbious epithets than they could find in their own.

The building in which they live forms one side of a square, and is divided into several single apartments, each having a separate entrance at the front, which can be secured at pleasure with lock and bolt, either from within or from without; one of these apartments, fitted up with bedstead, table, cupboard, boxes, and culinary utensils, is assigned to each married couple, and to each single woman; these rooms are very comfortable, and would be a great deal more so if their occupants could be induced to pay more attention to cleanliness, and had not such an apparent antipathy to soap and clean water.

One notable feature upon the station is the number of dogs, each native possessing 3 or 4, which eat, live, and sleep with their owners. These dogs are a great nuisance, and prevent the houses ever having a decent appearance; the natives, however, are so attached to them, that they will never consent to any diminution to their number.

The rations are allowed upon a liberal scale, and are generally very good. There were frequent complaints sometime ago about the meat, but that, I am glad to say, has much improved since a more liberal price has been paid to the contractor; when the market price was from 6*d.* to 8*d.* it was unwise to expect a man to supply a very good article at 2¼*d.* The following is the scale allowed to each aborigine per diem:

Meat	- - 2 lbs.	Tobacco	- - ⅜ oz.
Flour	- - 1¼ do.	Salt	- - - ¼ „
Sugar	- - 1⅙ „	Soap	- - - ½ „
Tea	- - ⅜ oz.		

Oil ½ a gill to each of six huts, but candles are generally given instead.

Men and women are well and plentifully supplied with good and warm clothing. The women's principal dress is made of stout blue cloth, fitting close round the neck and reaching to the feet, and contains 3½ yards of cloth, 1½ yards wide. Of these they each have 3 and sometimes 4 in the course of the 12 months: blue serge, flannel, calico, red caps, and pocket handkerchiefs are issued frequently and without stinting. In warm weather they have paletots and cotton frocks.

TASMANIA.

The principal employment of these people is to cook their victuals, mend and make their clothes sweep out their huts, and to get their wood, for which they have now to go a considerable distance, and which consequently occupies them a good portion of each day; all work devolves upon the women, the men doing nothing.

Walter is allowed 1*s.* 4*d.* per diem to take care of the boat and to meet the steamer. This service gives him employment for the best part of 4 days in each week, and he is frequently accompanied by the other men.

Their chief amusements are fishing and hunting; in pursuit of the latter they generally absent themselves once or twice during the season for 2 or 3 weeks or even a month; during this time they live in the bush. They always ask leave to go upon these excursions, and take with them their bedding, pots and pans, &c., and as many rations as they can carry.

Their behaviour is in general very good; but with a people so much addicted to drinking as these natives are there must of course be times when they are very troublesome and when they behave very badly.

Their health is in general very good, but during last winter the whole of them suffered very much from a violent kind of influenza; four of them were at one time dangerously ill, and one I am sorry to say died. Dr. Smith, from Brown's river, paid every attention to the sick, and nothing was omitted that could in any way add to their comfort.

I have forgotten to mention that three of the men are in the habit of going out whaling, and were so employed during the greater part of last year.

There is only one paid officer at this station, the Superintendent and Storekeeper, and one unpaid officer, the Visiting Magistrate.

J. N. DANDRIDGE,
Superintendent Aborigines, Oyster Cove.

25th May 1859.

LIST OF RETURNS.

NUMBER OF RETURN.	SUBJECT.	NUMBER OF RETURN.	SUBJECT.
1	Population of the Colony on 31 March 1857.	29	Municipalities and Road Trusts.
2	Population, exclusive of Military Troops and their Families.	30	Rates of Wages.
		31	Distribution of Live Stock.
3	Total Population.	32	Prices of Provisions.
4	Aboriginal Inhabitants.	33	Acres in Cultivation, and Nature of Crop.
5	Births registered.	34	Total Number of Acres in Cultivation.
6	Deaths registered.	35	Manufactories and Trades.
7	Deaths registered, distinguishing sex and age	36	Crown Land Sales.
8	Deaths registered, distributed according to age.	37	Town and Suburban Allotments sold.
		38	Combining Returns 37 and 38.
9	Deaths registered, distributed in quarters.	39	Number of Acres in Colony, &c.
10	Marriages registered.	40	Stage Coaches.
11	Return of Distribution of Marriages.	41	Return of Children at the Orphan Schools.
12	Religious Denominations.	42	Diseases.
13	Number of Houses.	43	Insolvencies.
14	Immigration—Expense and Numbers.	44	Convictions in the Supreme Court.
15	Arrivals and Departures.	45	Ditto Quarter Sessions.
16	Imports and Exports.	46	Civil Cases tried in the Supreme Court.
17	Vessels entered Inwards and Outwards.	47	Ditto Courts of Requests.
18	Tariff, Pilot, and Wharfage Rates, &c.	48	Criminals executed.
19	Receipts and Disbursements, General Revenue.	49	Gaols.
20	Receipts and Disbursements, Land Fund.	50	Government Schools.
21	Bonded Goods.	51	Lunatic Asylum.
22	Expenditure from Commissariat Chest.	52	Mortgages.
23	Light-houses.	53	Members of Executive Council and Parliament.
24	Steam Vessels.	54	
25	Coin in the Colony.	55	Acts passed.
26	Assets of the several Banks.	56	Nominal List of Officers under Colonial Government.
27	Post Office.		
28	Liabilities of the several Banks.	57	Ditto under the Convict Department.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

No. 15.

Copy of DESPATCH from Sir R. G. MacDonnell, C.B., to his Grace the Duke of Newcastle.

(No. 358.)

Government House, Adelaide,
10th October 1859.

My Lord Duke,

1. I am reminded since writing my Despatch of the 8th instant, that it is necessary to transmit the Blue Book of the Colony for the year 1858. I regret that when I first received it my other avocations did not permit me to acccompany it with a fuller and more satisfactory report than I can hope to compile now, when my journey northward does not admit of further postponement without an increase of risk and inconvenience, which, in my position, would seem unwarranted by the occasion.

2. I am nevertheless unwilling to forward the statistical returns of so important a year without calling your Grace's attention to the principal deductions which may thence be drawn as to the progress of the Colony in its most important social and material relations, although I think I can best use the short period at my disposal by mainly fixing attention on some three or four of the leading topics, to which I am anxious to give such prominence and publicity as I may secure for them by embodying them in this Despatch.

3. I am moreover the less inclined on this occasion to enter at any length into calculations founded on the published statistical reports of this Government, because I am aware that complete reliance cannot be placed on their accuracy where they affect former years. I notice with regret that in many of those returns the proved errors contained in returns of previous years are reproduced, *e.g.*, in the return of marriages; 99 is the number returned of marriages by the whole Church of England in the year 1855, although the marriages that were solemnized that year in one church alone in Adelaide (Trinity Church), amounted to 126. As this is only one out of a very considerable number of errors known to exist in these returns, I regret much that many of those inaccuracies, although noticed either by myself or the public press, have been again inadvertently issued with the usual voucher to their authenticity furnished by the Chief Secretary's foot note to each page, representing the returns to "have been compiled from authentic records." These inconsistencies will, I trust, hereafter be set right as far as possible, and the appearance of official sanction be in future withheld from ascertained inaccuracies.

Statistics of South Australia, 1858, Appendix A.

Population.

4. In the following table the estimated population on the 31st December 1858 is contrasted with that on the 31st December 1857,—

	Males.	Females.	Total.
31st December 1857 - -	55,735	54,182	109,917
„ 1858 - -	60,209	58,131	118,340

showing an increase during the year 1858 of 8,423 souls.

5. The last census was taken on the 31st March 1855; the next will probably be taken in 1861, when I have strong hopes of seeing all these Colonies agreeing each to have its census taken on the same day as that fixed for the next general census of Great Britain.

I have already suggested to your Grace the expediency of bringing the subject before the Registrar-General in England, with a view to that officer recommending the forms which he thinks might be most judiciously used for the purpose of giving unity of action, as well as procuring uniform information throughout these Colonies. Indeed, I see no reason why a general census of the British Empire on one day is impossible, and I have accordingly ventured to make the suggestion to your Grace.

SOUTH USTRALIA.

Encl. 2.
Encl. 3.

The births, marriages, and deaths officially registered during the years 1857 and 185 8 were respectively.

	Birth.	Marriages.	Deaths.
1857	5,183	1,218	1,304
1858	5,672	1,173	1,859

For detailed statement of births, marriages, and deaths, see Appendix A.

6. The number of aborigines in the settled districts cannot be accurately ascertained. They were estimated in 1855 at 3,540; but they are rapidly decreasing, and I do not believe that one half that number exists in the settled districts now.

Pauperism.

7. Annexed is a comparative return of the number of persons relieved by the district board during the years 1857 and 1858.

	1857.	1858.
In door - - - - - -	406	459
Out door - - - - -	321	306
Country Districts - - - -	96	121
TOTALS - -	823	886

Diseases and Climate.

8. *Hospitals.*—The number of patients admitted during 1858 were:—

	Males.	Females.
Without payment of Fees - - -	386	215
With ditto - - - - -	62	12
	448	227
	675	

The admissions during 1857 having been:—

	Males.	Females.
Without Fees - - - - -	314	267
With ditto - - - - -	73	9
	387	276
	663	

The average number of days during which the patients remained in the hospital was:—

	1857.		1858.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
In cases of Acute Disease - - - -	22½	26	23	26
„ Chronic „ - - - -	107	132	84	127
	s. *d.*		*s.* *d.*	
The average daily cost of each patient was -	2 1½		2 2⅓	

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

Encl. 4.

9. *Lunatic Asylum.*

	1857.		1858.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
The number of Patients under Medical Treatment on 1st January, was - -	44	29	47	39
The number of Admissions during the Year was	49	35	46	29
The number of Patients who died was - -	8	5	11	—
Of those who were discharged - -	19	20	40	
	s. *d.*		*s.* *d.*	
The average daily cost of each Patient was -	1 $5\frac{1}{2}$		1 $1\frac{3}{5}$	

Meteorological.

Encl. 5.

10. The barometer ranged in Adelaide from 30·391 in July, to 29·282 in January; the greatest range in any one month having been 0·886, and the least 0·363. The temperature varied from 116·3 in January, to 32·7 in September; the greatest diurnal range having been 45·8. Rain fell in Adelaide on 97 days, the total fall having been 20·250 inches. The prevalent winds were N.N.E. in the morning, and S.S.W. in the evening.

11. *Crimes, Misdemeanors, and Litigation.*

Encl. 6.

	1857.	1858.
Number of Convictions in Supreme Court, viz.:—		
Felonies - - - - - - - - - - - - -	54	67
Misdemeanors - - - - - - - - - - - -	19	8
Number of Civil Cases in Supreme Court - - - - - - - -	139	122
„ Preliminary Investigations heard and determined in Magistrates' Courts - - - - - - - - - - - - - - -	345	393
Number of Cases of Summary Jurisdiction heard and determined in Magistrates' Courts, viz.:—		
Number of Informations under Acts of Council - - - - - -	1,930	1,852
„ Criminal Trials, Assaults, and Misdemeanors - - -	767	834
„ Drunkenness in streets - - - - - - - -	1,252	1,349
„ Civil Cases, being Claims for Money not exceeding 30*l.* -	4,424	7,378

Insolvency.

12. The following is a return of the number of Fiats issued in the Province during 1857 and 1858:—

	1857.	1858.
Issued on Petition of Creditors - -	19	46
„ „ Imprisoned Debtors	13	33
„ „ Debtors at large -	12	26
TOTALS - -	44	105

Agriculture.

13. The extent of land brought under cultivation during 1858 was 264,462½ acres, showing, as compared with 1857, 236,965¾ acres; an increase of 27,496¼ acres.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

The harvest was still more unfavourable than that of last year; the wheat crop of that year having been estimated as averaging 12 bushels per acre, while that of 1858 is taken to have been only $11\frac{11}{60}$ bushels per acre, though this is a point on which there has been much dispute. The yield of last harvest was probably not short of 45,000 tons of flour.

The total comparative declared values of grain, and of other principal farm, dairy, and garden produce exported in the years 1857 and 1858, were as under:—

1857.	—	1858.
£		£
930	Animals, Horses	5,150
29	Bacon and Hams	142
3,154	Butter	3,928
911	Cheese	740
756,051	Corn and Meal	536,398
356	Fruit	2,051
2,969	Hay	4,350
938	Onions	834
155	Potatoes	276
531	Wine	772
£766,024		£554,641

14. The following were the average Adelaide prices of :—

—	Wheaten Flour.	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.	Potatoes.	Hay.
	per Ton.	per Bushel.	per Bushel.	per Bushel.	per Ton.	per Ton.
1857	23*l.* to 15*l.*	9*s.* to 5*s.*	9*s.* 6*d* to 6*s.* 6*d.*	8*s.* to 4*s.* 6*d.*	18*l.* to 6*l.* 10*s.*	7*l.* to 3*l.* 15*s.*
1858	18*l.* to 14*l.*	8*s.* to 4*s.* 9*d.*	8*s.* 6*d.* to 4*s.* 6*d.*	9*s.* 6*d.* to 4*s.*	20*l.* to 7*l.*	4*l.* to 3*l.* 10*s.*

The average price of bread at Adelaide was the same in 1858 as in 1857, viz., $2\frac{1}{2}d.$ per lb.

Crown Lands.

15. The area of lands alienated during the years 1857 and 1858 was { 177,718 acres. / 158,015 „

The revenue actually received from the Crown Lands was as under:—

1857.	—	1858.
£ s. d.		£ s. d.
220,984 7 0	Land Sales	205,065 0 0
19,011 3 4	Leases	20,363 19 5
1,661 15 0	Licences	1,841 8 6
241,657 5 4		227,270 7 11

The total area of waste Lands of the Crown held under Leases granted prior to 31st December 1858, is,

	Square Miles.
Without the Hundreds	30,395
Within „	1,548
Total	31,943

The Rental paid during the year 1858, being - - £18,781 10*s.* 5*d.*

Stock.

16. The following statement, comprising Returns, not only of this Colony but of the neighbouring Colonies for such years as I can obtain them at once, will prove interesting:—

—	Horses.	Horned Cattle.	Sheep and Lamb.	Pigs.	Year.
South Australia - -	26,220	310,400	2,075,805	39,189	1857
	34,629	375,507	3,108,501	37,735	1858
New South Wales - -	180,053	2,148,664	8,139,162	109,166	1857
	200,713	2,110,604	7,581,762	92,843	1858
Victoria - - - -	55,683	614,537	4,766,022	43,632	1857
	68,323	699,330	5,578,413	37,756	1858
New Zealand - - -	10,589	106,502	1,051,374	40,318	1857
	Statistics not received - - -				-

17. *Immigration and Emigration.*

—	1857.	1858.
The number of arrivals at Port Adelaide was - -	9,086	7,855
And that of departures - - - - - -	3,440	2,934
Showing an increase to the Population from this source of -	5,646	4,921

The number of Immigrants arriving in the Colony at the Public expense, was as follows:—

—	No. of Ships.	English.		Irish.		Scotch.		Total.		
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	—
1857	13	1,471	1,055	860	415	91	73	2,422	1,543	3,965
1858	10	699	743	998	663	198	253	1,894	1,659	3,353

Revenue and Expenditure.

18. Statement showing the Revenue and Expenditure of the Province, for 1857 and 1858.

1857.		
—	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
General Revenue - - - - -	451,525 19 2	480,234 14 0
Loans for Public Works - - - - -	274,800 0 0	184,131 7 8
Total - - - - -	726,325 19 2	664,366 1 8
1858.		
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
General Revenue - - - - -	451,830 16 10	472,618 6 7
Loans for Public Works - - - - -	131,863 0 0	131,569 8 7
Total - - - - -	583,693 16 10	604,187 15 2

19. *Imports and Exports.*

Imports.	Values.					
	1857.			1858.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
From Great Britain - -	1,016,813	15	0	1,264,735	16	0
„ British Colonies - -	546,284	0	0	445,590	1	0
„ Foreign States - -	59,954	10	0	59,026	1	0
Total - - -	1,623,052	5	0	1,769,351	18	0
Imports re-exported - -	214,388	0	0	157,144	0	0
Imports consumed in Colony - -	1,408,664	5	0	1,612,207	15	0

Exports.	Values.					
	1857.			1858.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
To Great Britain - - -	666,136	0	0	550,491	0	0
„ British Colonies - -	1,289,178	0	0	960,209	0	0
„ Foreign States - - -	33,258	0	0	1,485	0	0
Total - - -	1,958,572	0	0	1,512,185	0	0
Imports re-exported - -	214,388	0	0	157,144	0	0
Total Exports, produce of Colony -	1,744,184	0	0	1,355,041	0	0

Of the above stated value of produce of the Colony, the principal items other than those ascribed to Farm Produce already given will be found in the following table:—

1857.			——	1858.		
£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
3,162	0	0	Bark - - - -	2,542	0	0
2,557	0	0	Hides and Skins - - -	2,602	0	0
290,739	0	0	Metals, Copper - - -	250,042	0	0
141,285	0	0	Copper Ore - -	104,780	0	0
23,855	0	0	Lead - - - -	14,200	0	0
2,960	0	0	Regulus - - - -	4,260	0	0
316	0	0	Tallow - - - - -	35	0	0
504,520	0	0	Wool - - " -	420,833	0	0

20. It may be useful here to compare the value of the exports of the three principal interests of the Colony for the years 1857 and 1858. I therefore give them here:—

——	1857.	1858.	Decrease.
	£	£	£
Pastoral - -	507,393	420,370	83,923
Mining - -	458,839	373,282	85,557
Agricultural - -	766,024	554,641	211,383
Total - -	1,732,256	1,351,393	380,863

Shipping.

21. The number and tonnage of, inwards and outwards at Port Adelaide, was :—

	Great Britain.		British Colonies.		Foreign States.		Total.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons
1857 Inwards - -	71	39,411	327	59,958	16	6,941	414	106,310
„ Outwards - - -	15	7,262	342	75,441	47	23,888	404	106.591
1858 Inwards - -	64	38,495	258	47,876	21	8,528	343	94,899
„ Outwards - -	9	4,465	275	60,410	46	23,295	330	88,176

The number and tonnage of vessels built and registered according to law was :—

	Vessels.		Vessels registered.		Registers cancelled.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
1857 - -	—	—	10	2,271	12	2,341
1858 - -	9	515	20	1,860	19	2,647

Education.

22. The number of schools to which Government aid has been extended has increased from 167, with 7,480 pupils, at close of 1857, to 182, with 8,237 pupils, at close of 1858. The amount of Government aid having been—10,538*l.* 18*s.* 0*d.* in 1857, and 11,329*l.* 15*s.* 5*d.* in 1858.

The education of the above children cost in 1858 (inclusive of official salaries), on an average, 2*l.* 18*s.* 10*d.* per head, of which the Government contributed 1*l.* 11*s.* 4*d.* per head, and the friends of the pupils 1*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.* per head.

23. The total number of district schools erected under Government aid is 33, of which 10 were built in 1858, at a cost of 1,922*l.* 10*s.*

The number of schools in the Colony, the teachers of which have not received aid from Government, has not been accurately ascertained; but it is supposed that the assisted schools did not comprise more than three-fifths of the children under instruction. It is estimated that about 17,750 children, or 11½ per cent. of the population, were receiving education during 1858, although too many facts have come to my knowledge which convince me that the education so received is often of the most imperfect character. This, however, is a subject of so much importance, that I intend to go fully into it at a subsequent period, when I shall have more time at my disposal.

Postal.

24. The following table exhibits the Post Office business during 1858:

	No. of Offices.	Letters.		Newspapers.		Totals.	
		Ship.	Inland.	Ship.	Inland.	Letters.	Newspapers.
1857	110	299,618	634,932	307,975	541,971	934,550	849,946
1858	126	321,455	782,995	325,236	591,412	1,104,451	916,648

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

The revenue of the Post Office and the expenditure was:—

Revenue.	——	Expenditure.
£ s. d.		£ s. d.
10,353 18 4	1857	17,984 18 0
12,688 19 4	1858	15,704 10 8

Public Works.

25. The sum expended in 1858 through the Department of the Colonial Architect, on public works, buildings, and improvements, was 52,622*l.* 1*s.* 5*d.*, but the total outlay of the Colony under that head was 168,110*l.* 5*s.*

For further details as to progress of the various public works and undertakings, *vide* annexed Report * of the Public Works Department for the six months ending 31st December 1858, which I send as printed.

Electric Telegraphs.

26. The rapid development of the telegraph system in Australia, while affording a gratifying index of colonial energy and enterprize, affords also most conclusive proof how naturally it is adapted to the circumstances and wants of a young community. Where the different centres of population are widely separated, with but imperfect and slow means of intercommunication, and a constantly fluctuating trade, the advantages of the telegraph are more readily appreciated than in a country like England, where railways and roads ramifying in every direction, as well as the best of postal regulations, render the people less dependent on this modern means of intercourse.

27. Introduced first into Victoria in 1854, into South Australia at the end of the year following, and into New South Wales not until the beginning of 1858, the close of the last-named year found the three principal colonies electrically united and within speaking distance, whilst by the recent successful submersion of the Bass's Straits cable, Tasmania is now included in the chain.

28. The length of cable recently laid across the Bass Straits was 230 miles, and considering that only eight years have elapsed since the first cable was laid across the Straits of Dover, these colonies have reason for congratulation on the success of that undertaking. I have not the figures by me just now, but the aggregate length of the Australian telegraphs now in active operation, cannot be less than 2,500 miles.

29. The lines now in operation in South Australia extend for 370 miles, and three other lines are in course of construction, which together are rather more than 180 miles long, viz., an extension of the northern line to Clare and Kooringa, one from Adelaide to Mount Barker, with a branch to connect Nairne and Woodside; and a third branching from Mount Gambier to Penola. Provision has also been made for carrying a second wire *viâ* Mount Gambier to the south-eastern frontier, being continued from Strathalbyn across the Murray at Wellington, involving 70 miles of new line. Moreover, the South Australian portion of a direct line, *viâ* the Darling, between Adelaide and Sydney, has been sanctioned by the Legislature, and will be prosecuted whenever the New South Wales section shall be positively determined on. The total estimated cost of the new lines, either in course of construction or sanctioned, amounts to no less than 30,000*l.*

30. The cost of the Australian lines has varied considerably. I find that the first line in Victoria, between Melbourne and Williamstown, cost, with one wire, 193*l.* 15*s.* a mile, exclusive of instruments and stations. In South Australia the first line, of four wires, between Adelaide and the Port, cost, *with instruments and stations*, rather more than 200*l.* a mile. The first line in New South Wales was between Sydney and the South Heads, consisting of one wire, and cost 91*l.* a mile, with instruments, but exclusive of buildings. The lines now in course of erection here will probably not cost more than 40*l.* to 45*l.* a mile.

* This Report being voluminous is not printed.

31. The progressive utility of the telegraph will be estimated from the following tabular statement of the number of messages and receipts, with which Mr. Todd has furnished me :—

Year.	Number of Messages.	Receipts.	Mileage of each Year.
		£ s. d.	
1856 (10½ months) -	14,738	366 6 7	9
1857 - - -	35,792	1,183 13 10	40
1858 - - -	46,716	2,844 5 6	93, to 345 in Dec.
1859 (first 6 months)	30,314	2,617 15 7	360
Total - -	127,560	7,012 1 6	

Telegraphic Communication with England viâ India.

32. Having thus briefly traced the advancement and present condition of the existing local system of telegraphs, I avail myself of this opportunity to offer a few remarks on the far more important question of the proposed extension of the Anglo-Indian lines to Australia. It is not yet too late to pause before the public or Her Majesty's Government become committed to any one scheme, without that previous extensive review of the general question which it deserves.

33. As the line, whatever direction it might take, would be of nearly equal benefit to Great Britain as to these Colonies, the Imperial Government, following the course hitherto pursued in these matters, would probably undertake to contribute one moiety of the subsidy; therefore the diminution of that subsidy, by decreasing the interest payable on the capital invested, is a matter of equal concern to the Colonies and the Mother Country.

34. The estimated amount of capital required, if Mr. Gisborne's route is adopted, viz., 842,000*l.*, may not be excessive; but I am informed by Mr. Todd that a much stronger cable than that which he proposes could be obtained without exceeding the cost estimated. The Atlantic cable cost, I believe (from the manufacturer), 100*l.* a mile; the Red Sea, 105*l.*, or, when laid, 198*l.* per mile. The cable recommended by Mr. Gisborne would be similar to the latter, but stronger and heavier, weighing 22 cwt. to the mile, and it is estimated will cost 110*l.* per mile in England. The Bass' Straits cable cost, in England, only 85*l.*; it weighs about two tons to the mile. The cost of laying would probably be much greater, but it would be more reliable.

35. I would, however, pass from these minor considerations to the far more important one of the route to be selected. Four different routes have been mentioned. Of these we may confine ourselves to the consideration of three, for that from Galle *viâ* the Cocos to Western Australia, appears no longer to have advocates. The respective merits of the Western and Eastern Coast lines are very nearly balanced. The Western line, however, possesses this advantage, that it would co-operate as it were with the mail service, and would also unite Western Australia, whilst the cost would be much the same. Moreton Bay, or Queensland, would in any case I apprehend be connected with Sydney, and thus the whole of the Colonies would reap the advantages of telegraphic intercourse; whereas, if the Eastern line be adopted, an independent line would still be required to bring in Western Australia.

36. Nevertheless, in the absence of any well-digested scheme for carrying a line in that direction, it would be natural to support Mr. Gisborne's proposal, which, however, I would now wish to contrast with one overland. Though I am not aware that any one previous to myself had called attention to the latter route, and though at first it had few advocates, yet every new exploration towards the interior naturally raises the reflection whether it be not premature to support a circular route along uninhabited shores, whether east or west, when it may perhaps be quite practicable to adopt a nearly direct and cheaper one across the Continent, and, at the same time, secure thereby many collateral advantages.

37. Whilst Mr. Gisborne's proposed line is intended to work in a circuit exceeding the direct line by 600 miles in length, and whilst its submarine portion exceeds the

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submarine portion of the more direct route by 2,084 miles, it must be remembered that extensive coral reefs, likely to injure the cable, are known to exist in the seas which he proposes the cable should traverse. It is true that Mr. Gisborne endeavours to meet that objection by stating, that according to charts the cable could with due caution be laid quite clear of the reefs, on a bottom composed of sand and mud, and that coral is not likely to grow on such a bottom.

38. Nevertheless, I think there is still reasonable ground for doubting whether these seas have been surveyed with the care which alone would warrant the positive tone Mr. Gisborne assumes; and certainly no surveys having reference to the submergence of a cable have as yet ever been made there.

39. The comparatively short lengths comprising the several sections into which Mr. Gisborne proposes to divide the cable is a favourable feature in his scheme, affording as it would facilities in working, and in case of injury, the cable being laid in shallow seas, could be easily underrun and repaired. Therefore I consider Mr. Gisborne's plan to be deserving of serious consideration in the absence of any better proposal, though I yet see many collateral advantages in a land line, if at all practicable, over the best submarine line.

40. Such a line would assist in the settlement and development of the country; and if a practicable route could be found would probably be less costly in its construction, and more easily repaired than a submarine cable.

41. In reference to its practicability, I cannot but feel that the reports of Major Warburton and Mr. Stuart are sufficiently encouraging to warrant the hope of its being not only possible, but even comparatively easy, to carry a line to the northern coast, near the embouchure of the river Victoria. Any route much more to the eastward would probably lead through some extension of Sturt's Desert. The obstacle most likely to arise would perhaps be a scarcity of suitable timber along some portion of the line, as on the distribution of timber suitable for poles would mainly depend the cost of the work.

42. I perceive that in Victoria an overland route is at last beginning to find favour; and Mr. McGowan, the Superintendent of the telegraph department in that Colony, observes, "If a favourable route overland be found, he would recommend its adoption in preference to the submarine." Practically, therefore, Mr. McGowan's opinion and advice concur with the views which I long ago submitted to the consideration of Her Majesty's Government. In New South Wales a preference has been expressed by some parties for a land line by Mitchell's River, or to Port Essington; and Mr. Gisborne states that if a land line is determined on he is prepared to meet it at any point on the coast, but would require that definite steps towards its construction should be taken by the Colonial Governments before the manufacture of any portion of the cable.

43. For the purpose of making a pecuniary comparison between the two sections, Mr. Todd has favoured me with a rough preliminary estimate of the cost of a land line from Adelaide to the North coast, somewhere in the vicinity of the Victoria River, and thence per submarine cable to the east of Java. He proposes that the land section should be constructed in a most substantial manner, the posts being chemically prepared in such way as would best preserve them from rot, and the ravages of the white ant. He also suggests that the posts should be stouter and capable of carrying a thicker wire (No. 4) than is ordinarily used (No. 6 or 8). He considers that the insulation likewise should be of the very best kind, though one wire would probably be sufficient to meet the demands for many years.

44. His estimate is as follows:

1st. Land Scheme,—	
Mount Remarkable, proposed station, 200 miles north of Adelaide, to northern coast, say, 1,480 miles, at an average of 120*l.* per mile - - - - - - - -	£177,600
From north coast of Australia to Coepang, 350 miles; from Coepang to Boewangi, 590 miles:—or 940 miles, at the liberal rate of 240*l.* per mile - - - - - - -	225,600
Total estimated cost - -	£403,200

2nd. Estimated cost of line of telegraph from east end of Java to Sydney, viâ Moreton Bay.

Submarine section, according to estimate of Mr. Gisborne,—

	Miles.	
Boewangi to Coepang - - - - -	590	
Coepang to Port Essington - - - - -	525	
Port Essington to Cape York - - - -	635	
Cape York to Cleveland Bay - - - -	619	
Cleveland Bay to Moreton Bay - - - -	655	
	3,024	=£800,000

Land section,—

Moreton Bay to Sydney, 600 miles, at 70*l.* - - -	42,000
Total cost or capital required for Mr. Gisborne's route -	£842,000
Difference in favour of land line from Adelaide - -	£438,800

45. If, however, we exclude from our calculation the line between Sydney and Moreton Bay as being likely to be constructed irrespective of a line to India, and if we deduct the estimated cost of that line, we shall still have the large difference of 398,800*l.* in favour of the overland line.

Mr. Gisborne estimates the annual cost of maintenance of his line at 20,000*l.*, viz., 10,000*l.* for stations, and 10,000*l.* for steamer.

Mr. Todd proposes, if a land line is adopted, to have stations from 60 to 70 miles apart, say, 24 stations at an average cost of 500*l.* per annum each, or 12,000*l.*

46. But even if we suppose the whole average annual expenditure to be 20,000*l.* per annum, the collateral advantages of the proposed route are very great, including amongst others the probable establishment of a camel post across the interior, the foundation of a prosperous commercial community on the north coast in the vicinity of Cambridge Gulf, and the probable transit near the route so opened (if the country be at all practicable) of large numbers of horses to the north coast for shipment to the Indian market, at comparatively little expense, in greater security, and by a far shorter voyage than the route of Torres Straits.

47. On the whole, I cannot think it expedient for these Colonies to commit themselves to any scheme, costing apparently several hundred thousand pounds more than the direct overland route, till the absolute impracticability of the latter shall have been clearly demonstrated.

48. I would also observe, that when we reflect that the distance between Mr. Stuart's furthest point north, in latitude 26 south, and Mr. Gregory's furthest south latitude 19° 30′ south, longitude 127° 30′ east, is not 600 miles in a direct line, or, in other words, is not more than an Arab with a couple of fleet dromedaries would explore in a few days, I can only express my regret that there has not hitherto been either sufficient enterprise, or a sufficiently judicious application of it, to make us acquainted with the geographical and general character of the intervening district.

49. I trust, however, there is now at last a fair prospect of clearing up whatever the mystery which still impends over that portion of the Continent, as one expedition has recently started for the purpose of exploring a shorter route to the northern coast, and that expedition will probably be followed up by another from Victoria, whilst the example of this Colony in offering a liberal reward of 2,000*l.* to the first party which may succeed in opening a route between the southern and northern coasts will, as I have reason to hope, be followed in an equally liberal spirit by the neighbouring Colonies.

50. I would conclude this subject by observing that, although the immediate advantage to the public of telegraphic communication with Europe, and the number of messages likely to be transmitted, may be somewhat over estimated, it is scarcely possible that there can be a question as to the wisdom of obtaining positive testimony as to the impracticability or otherwise of the direct route, possessing as it does so many advantages, before the idea be abandoned. Though I would be sorry to aver that it is the only line which should be adopted, yet I feel justified in asking that it be not rejected without inquiry.

51. I cannot conclude this part of my subject without expressing the obligations of this Government to the energetic and highly competent superintendence of Mr. Charles Todd over the Telegraphic Department, which is mainly indebted to him for its present extremely efficient state.

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Legislation.

52. I shall not attempt here to sketch the various important Acts which were passed during the year 1858. I have already made those Acts the subject of various special reports to Her Majesty's Government, but I avail myself of this opportunity to give a general outline of the objects and practical working of one measure which, from the extensive reform it has originated, and the marked attention and support it has received from the general public, requires that I should offer some observations on the defects and advantages which time has developed in it.

53. I allude to the Act passed in January 1858, and subsequently amended in December of the same year, intituled "An Act to simplify the laws relating to the transfer and "encumbrance of freehold and other interests in land."

54. The importance of the interests involved, and the degree of attention at present bestowed on this subject, both in the Mother Country and in the Colonies where English laws prevail, appear to call for a full exposition of the experiment which has been received with such remarkable favour by the general public, and which, on the whole, must be admitted to have already attained a large amount of success here.

55. The measure in question originated with Mr. Robert R. Torrens, who for a long period filled high offices in this Government under the former constitution, and was a Member of the Legislature previous to and since the establishment of responsible Government. He has, however, for some time retired from a political career, in order to devote undivided attention to the practical development of his system.

56. In so far as regards the transfer, leasing, mortgate, incumbrance, and settlement of real estate, Mr. Torrens's method accords with the recommendations of the Commissioners on Registrations of Title contained in the Report laid before the Imperial Parliament in May 1857, and is nearly identical with that embodied in the Bill introduced into the House of Commons during last session by Sir Hugh Cairns.

57. These systems agree in leaving it to the discretion of each proprietor to settle for himself the question of exchanging his tenure under the old law for a certificate of title under the new. Nevertheless, as regards the procedure to be followed in effecting the change of tenure, and also as regards the position in which it places the proprietor after surrender of his deeds in exchange for certificate of title, Mr. Torrens's method differs from that suggested by the Parliamentary Commissioners, as well as from that of Sir Hugh Cairns.

58. Under Mr. Torrens's system, the claims of persons to be recognised as owners of the fee are examined by solicitors, specially retained for that purpose, and if the evidence submitted be sufficient "primâ facie" to show at least a good holding title in the claimant, his application is advertised in the public papers, and by other means extensively notified.

59. If any adverse claim be lodged within a period fixed for each case upon its apparent merits, the question raised is referred for adjudication to the ordinary tribunals of the country. If, however, nō such claim be lodged, the Registrar-General issues to the applicant proprietor, in exchange for his deeds of title, surrendered to the Crown, a certificate which secures him immunity from ejectment, but leaves him liable for compensation by cash payment to rightful heirs, or other claimants, whether of the fee or of a lesser estate, who may be debarred by the operation of the new law from pursuing the remedy by action of ejectment.

60. Compensation must in such cases be claimed within six years from the date of the advertisement, and is limited in amount to the value of the land at the date of issuing certificate of title.

61. As this liability attaches only to the person of the applicant proprietor to whom the first certificate in respect to each parcel of land is issued, and does not follow the land into the possession of a purchaser or mortgagee, provision is made for satisfying such claims, failing recovery of the full amount and costs from the applicant proprietor, for which purpose an assurance fund is created by a small per-centage upon the value of lands brought under the new law. The sufficiency of the fund so created is a point which can only be decided by the lapse of time, and the experience thence derived.

62. The measure proposed by Sir Hugh Cairns, would subject every title, however clear, and whether adverse claims be raised or not, to judicial inquiry by a Court specially constituted for that object, and after favourable decision, would still leave the applicant proprietor liable to be ejected from the land, immunity in this respect being withheld until the estate has passed from the first certified proprietor to purchasers or mortgagees.

63. This Bill does not appear to provide any remedy for the rightful owner, in case the person to whom certificate of title may have been issued in error shall have parted with the estate for valuable consideration.

64. The diversity of the two systems in these respects involves considerations of especial importance. In Colonies, especially when settled within a comparatively short period, and where consequently a large proportion of titles consist of Crown Grants, or of such Grants with a few simple and clearly evidenced transactions superadded, the introvention in all cases of a judicial decision would seem to be an unnecessarily stringent impediment to placing such titles under the new system.

65. Again, in new Colonies estates in land are comparatively of small value, and the expense, coupled with the delay attendant on obtaining a judicial decision, would operate in the majority of cases as a positive prohibition.

66. Thirdly, in countries so placed the capital expended by the occupier in buildings and other fixed improvements, very generally exceeds the value of the land itself. Hence the remedy by ejectment inflicts great hardship, when in restoring to the rightful owner his inheritance, it also bestows upon him therewith the capital of others, who, though tortuous holders, may have occupied "bonâ fide," and such cases are of frequent occurrence in the Australian Colonies.

67. The plea that feelings of attachment to hereditary acres may be outraged, has of course less force, and is of rarer practical application in new than in old countries, and on the whole, the requirements of natural justice will probably be sufficiently met when the money value of his inheritance, with costs of suit, are insured to the rightful heir, especially as the occurrence of such cases must be the exception.

68. If moreover we regard the question in its economic aspect, the wealth of the community would seem to be increased by a measure which, curing all defects of a merely technical character, and transferring the liability from the land to the person of the holder, renders available for the secure investment of capital in reproductive improvements the land which otherwise would have remained comparatively waste in other hands.

69. Upon these grounds, and without entering on the comparative eligibility of the two systems as applied to the case of an old established country, the measure now in operation in South Australia appears better adapted to the circumstances of a recent Colony.

70. Under that system, if the title be once purged of flaw by issue of the certificate, the principle that upon each change of ownership of the fee the certificate shall be surrendered to the Crown and a fresh certificate issued to the incoming proprietor, effectually cuts off for the future the derivative or dependent character of title to real estate—the fruitful source of costs, insecurity, intricacy, and delay.

71. Another principle, having like tendency is, that the estate passes upon entry of a transfer in the register book; the instrument signed between the parties, being nothing more than an authority for the Registrar making each entry.

72. These instruments when stamped and endorsed by the Registrar, with a certificate that the particulars have been entered in the register book, become evidence in all Courts of law and equity that such entry has been made, unless the contrary be shown.

73. Memorials of all leases, mortgages, and encumbrances, noted in the register book, are also entered upon the certificate of title in the hands of the owner of the fee, by which means disclosure of all that it concerns a purchaser or mortgagee to learn is ensured upon the mere production of that instrument without the necessity of searching the register.

74. All instruments under this system are required to be executed in original and counterpart. The original is deposited in the registry, the counterpart is held by the party entitled, and, in the event of this being lost or destroyed, a copy of the deposited original certificate, under hand and seal of the Registrar, becomes of the same value in evidence, and for all other purposes, as the original.

75. The originals of certificates of title as representing the fee are bound in volumes, and constitute the register book, each certificate forming a separate folium distinguished by its appropriate number.

76. Memorials of leases, mortgages, and encumbrances, as also memorials of the transfer, surrender, or discharge of these estates, are entered each upon the folium constituted by the certificate of title of the land which it affects, by which means all limitations and conditions to which the fee of each parcel of land is subject, are exhibited together in one place.

77. Leases, mortgages, and instruments other than certificates of title, are numbered in one series as presented for registration, and stamped each with the volume and leaf of

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the register book where the memorial of its contents is recorded. The originals are then deposited in compartments in the registry, and the counterpart delivered to the person entitled. Each memorial entered in the register book, and on the counterpart certificate of title held by the proprietor of the fee, bears the number of the instrument of which it is an abstract.

78. By these means the utmost facility in reference has been attained, and an index for that purpose is unnecessary.

79. Transfer or surrender of lease, as also transfer or discharge of mortgage or encumbrance, when evidenced by acknowledgment of the parties, endorsed on the nstrument itself, becomes effectual when recorded on the appropriate folium of the register book, under the hand of the Registrar.

80. The circuitous and involved method of mortgaging by transfer of the legal estate with equity of redemption is abolished, and direct hypothecation substituted. One of the main sources of expense, litigation, and delay is thus removed, yet in case of default all remedies available under the previous law are secured to the mortgagee.

81. Settlements and entails can only be effected through the instrumentality of trustees registered as absolute owners.

82. All trusts are not recorded in the register, but may at the option of the proprietor be either disclosed on a schedule attached to the instrument nominating the trust, or declared in a deed enclosed in a sealed envelope and deposited in the registry for safe custody and reference.

83. The interest of beneficiaries under the trusts may be protected in a manner identical with that by which interests of the like nature in the English funds are protected, by caveat, distringas, and limitation against survivorship of trustees.

84. The laws relating to devolution of real estate by inheritance, descent, bankruptcy, or insolvency, are in no way interfered with, it being merely directed that such event shall be properly authenticated to the Registrar, in order to warrant entry of the name of the new proprietor in the register.

85. Registration is conducted on the central system in the capital, whence printed forms of instruments adapted to each class of dealings are issued. The instruments executed out of the capital may be acknowledged or proved before a justice of the peace by the parties or attesting witnesses, and forwarded through the post office for registration, search when required being made by query addressed to the Registrar, per post or telegram. These arrangements have proved so satisfactory as to set at rest the question as between "central" and "district" registration.

86. No less an authority than Lord St. Leonards has urged against registration generally the following objections. 1st, that it exposes private affairs, such as family settlements, to prying curiosity; 2nd, that through the accumulation of documents, it must eventually break down of its own weight; 3rd, that the difficulties attendant on keeping an index posted up, so as to be constantly available for search, carefully checked so as to warrant implicit confidence in its accuracy, and in so many counterparts as to admit of several searches being conducted at one time in the same letter have hitherto proved insurmountable. It may, therefore, be useful to consider whether these objections apply to the system of registration of title above described, and being gradually adopted here.

87. Its provisions do not, as above explained, involve necessarily disclosure of the trusts of a settlement. The cancellation and withdrawal of the certificate, mortgage, lease, or other instrument evidencing title, upon the transfer, expiration, or extinction of the estate or interest represented thereby, effectually prevents inconvenient accumulation, and ensures that each estate extant shall be evidenced by one instrument only. Moreover, so long as all encumbrances and limitations of the proprietor's interest are notified by memorial on his certificate of title, and whilst the retrospective history of the title is cut off, search can only be required against caveats and distringas, and is the affair of a few minutes. Again, as each instrument is marked with the volume and folium of the register book, where the memorials of all transactions affecting the land are exhibited together, it is in itself an index for the purpose of searching the proprietor's title.

88. As a matter of experience, it may be stated that the general index is resorted to only upon rare occasions, as loss of the instrument of title, or when it is desired to ascertain what dealings a deceased intestate, or an insolvent seeking to conceal his assets, may have had in real estate.

89. In conclusion, I am inclined to think that more has been done in South Australia than in any other portion of the British Empire hitherto to solve the problem of rendering dealings in real estate as secure, economical, and expeditious as dealings in the funds.

90. The results realized are such simplification that persons of ordinary intelligence conduct their own business, and in expenses attending conveyancing, and are thus enabled on the average to save in money nearly eighteen shillings in the pound, and so much time that a transaction rarely occupies more than an hour.

91. The removal of those contingencies on dealings in real estate, which have heretofore afforded a pretext for the greater portion of suits in Equity, necessarily diminishes litigation. The removal of impediments in the shape of expense, insecurity, and delay, which have hitherto excluded landed securities from ordinary bank transactions, renders the use of capital more easily attainable by the producing classes, and I certainly think that in developing and bringing into operation the whole scheme whereby all this is accomplished, Mr. Torrens has exhibited an amount of energy and perseverance such as justly entitles him to the gratitude of this community.

Murray River Trade.

92. The trade on the main River during the season 1858–9 was not, in some respects, equal to that of several previous years. Generally the river has been open for navigation in the month of June; but in 1858 it was not till an advanced period in the month of September that the floods came down in sufficient volume to admit of the steamers proceeding to their customary destinations; and although thus so much later in opening, the navigation of the river closed at the usual time, so that few of the boats could effect more than three voyages each to the Upper Murray, instead of five or six, as in former years.

93. But while the main River thus offered unusual impediments to navigation, ample employment was found for some of the steamers on its important affluents, the Murrimbidgee and Darling, which were both successfully navigated—the former to the township of Gundagai, a distance of 800 miles; and the latter, by Mr. William Randall, to a point nearly 1,800 miles above its junction with the Murray, being the greatest feat in steam navigation ever performed on the rivers of Australia. I had myself previously, as reported to Her Majesty's Government, accompanied Captain Cadell, in the steamer "Albury," to a distance of 600 miles above the junction of the Darling and Murray; and as I then had the pleasure of reporting that I considered the river equally navigable when we turned as it had been lower down, and as I regretted that Captain Cadell had not continued his voyage higher, it was with great pleasure I heard of Mr. Randall's successful verification of my anticipations as to the capabilities of the river.

94. It is possible that the Darling may not be found as navigable every year; yet that which has been effected has already given an immense increase to the value of existing pastoral stations, and has facilitated the occupation of an immense extent of new country in the territory of New South Wales.

95. The clearing operations on the Murray are still continued by the Snag boat; and although much remains to be done in this respect, the accidents from snagging during the season were of the most trifling character.

96. One of the steamers formerly employed on the river, viz., the "Melbourne," was, under the able and judicious command of Mr. James King, during the past season, engaged in trading between Goolwa and Port Adelaide through the sea mouth of the Murray. Her voyages averaged more than five each way every month, and were performed with great regularity. I believe that, altogether, Captain King has made about 180 voyages through the sea mouth of the Murray without having encountered any serious accident. Nevertheless, it is very desirable that the channel should be improved, for it certainly does not present the appearance of a safe passage for commercial traffic. That impression was not removed by my own experience when I went through the breakers at the beginning of this year; and yet experience shows that, practically, it is available for many purposes of commerce.

97. During the season 1859–60, now entered upon, the trade will probably be nearly equal in amount to that of the past season. The navigation opened about six weeks earlier, but there has been no heavy flood in any of the rivers up to this date, and the boats are not therefore expected to be able to make an average number of voyages. One steamer, the "Leichart," has been removed altogether from the river, but Captain Cadell has increased the number of his fleet by the addition of the screw steamer "Ruby," which vessel has just successfully completed a voyage to Melbourne through the sea mouth, with a cargo of silver lead ore, laden at Milang, on Lake Alexandrina, and is intended, when the proper season arrives, to convey wool by the same channel, without trans-shipment, from the shipping stations on the Murray to the ports of Melbourne or Adelaide, as the settlers may prefer.

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98. The first voyage of the "Ruby" direct to Melbourne, through the Murray Mouth, took place but a few days ago, and I regard that event as possessing historical importance in its effect on the great interests of that vast interior watered by the Murray and its tributaries, whilst I consider it pregnant with scarcely less important results to the prosperity and trade of South Australia, which it is at present difficult to foresee. Nevertheless, so far as such a direct trade to Melbourne can influence the prosperity of the interior, the effect must be of the most auspicious kind.

99. My intended departure to the North prevents my entering as fully into detail as I would wish, and necessitates this rather abrupt termination of my Despatch.

I have, &c.

(Signed) RICHARD GRAVES MACDONNELL,
Governor.

Appendix.

APPENDIX.

COMPARATIVE RETURN of the Number of BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, and DEATHS registered in the PROVINCE of SOUTH AUSTRALIA during the Years 1852 to 1858, inclusive.

BIRTHS.

Year.	Males.	Females.	Totals.
1852	1,431	1,296	2,727
1853	1,401	1,373	2,774
1854	1,728	1,723	3,451
1855	2,054	1,890	3,944
1856	2,336	2,152	4,488
1857	2,640	2,543	5,183
1858	2,935	2,737	5,672

MARRIAGES.

Solemnized.	1852.	1853.	1854.	1855.	1856.	1857.	1858.
By the Church of England - -	517	591	463	99	488	493	407
„ „ Scotland - -	9	53	30	28	35	23	24
„ Roman Catholics - -	61	113	137	145	201	260	304
„ German Lutherans - -	49	90	75	68	85	90	85
„ German Prot. Congregationalists.	—	—	—	—	—	—	5
„ Congregational Independents -	47	56	90	86	66	58	65
„ Wesleyans - - -	24	46	44	79	118	114	103
„ Free Church - - -	13	36	49	50	70	48	52
„ Christians - - -	—	4	3	1	5	5	4
„ Deputy-Registrar, Adelaide -	2	2	10	—	—	—	—
„ Baptists - - - -	—	9	9	31	46	28	26
„ Bible Christians - -	4	10	16	27	36	44	36
„ Primitive Methodists - -	—	—	—	—	—	28	32
„ Friends - - - -	—	2	—	1	2	—	1
„ Moravians - - -	—	—	—	1	2	2	5
„ United Presbyterians - -	—	—	—	3	—	1	4
„ Unitarians - - -	—	—	—	—	—	1	4
„ Jews - - - -	—	7	—	2	1	1	1
„ District Registrars - -	—	1	2	13	17	22	15
	726	1,020	928	634	1,172	1,218	1,173

DEATHS.

Year.	Age.														Males.	Females.	Totals.
	Under 2 Years.		Under 5 Years.		Under 10 Years.		Under 30 Years.		Under 50 Years.		50 Years and above.		Age Unknown.				
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.			
1852 - -	301	256	31	37	19	17	68	54	86	70	34	34	17	4	595	503	1,098
1853 - -	333	305	93	77	32	29	72	71	106	70	40	31	15	1	691	584	1,275
1854 - -	411	357	51	61	20	22	65	74	86	74	64	39	18	4	715	631	1,346
1855 - -	472	413	79	61	28	18	88	108	112	107	61	51	48	17	888	775	1,663
1856 - -	332	278	29	30	19	9	69	71	82	56	73	33	54	12	658	489	1,147
1857 - -	394	338	35	40	20	8	94	83	111	69	71	37	3	1	728	576	1,304
1858 - -	609	503	73	58	25	20	112	85	157	91	72	46	6	2	1,054	805	1,859

NOTE.—This Return merely shows the number of Births, Marriages, and Deaths actually registered in the Province; there are, at present, no satisfactory data for estimating the number of those unregistered.

Compiled from authentic Official Records.

WM. YOUNGHUSBAND,
Chief Secretary.

April, 1859.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

No. 16.

No. 16.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Governor KENNEDY to the Right Honourable Sir EDWARD B. LYTTON, Bart., M.P.

(No. 38.)

Government House, Perth,
March 15, 1859.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit the "Blue Book" for the year 1858.

2. The various returns comprised in this Book are so explanatory and satisfactory that I need not occupy your time by any lengthened comments.

3. The concluding remarks in my Report on the Blue Book for 1857, "that the "Colony had never before been in so sound and progressive a condition," are fully borne out by the returns now submitted to you.

4. The revenue of the Colony during the year 1858 has exceeded that of 1857 by a sum of 12,000*l.*, and exceeded even the estimated revenue for 1858 by a sum of 1,700*l.*

5. The expenditure of 1858 has exceeded that of 1857 by a sum of 2,000*l.*, though it is less than the estimated expenditure for 1858 by a sum of 4,000*l.*

6. The general progress of the Colony may be estimated from the imports and exports, which are as follow:

	1856.	1857.	1858.
Imports -	£122,938	£94,531	£144,931
Exports -	£43,907	£59,946	£78,648

7. It is unreasonable to expect any very considerable increase in the imports and exports of this Colony, when it is remembered how little foreign capital has been introduced, and that the population is comparatively stationary.

8. These considerations go to prove the sound and steady prosperity of all classes, and I look for a further increase in the export of wool, timber, copper, lead, and horses during the current year.

9. The Colony is now in a position to undertake various remunerative public works, and much has been done during the past year in improving the city of Perth and town of Fremantle, as well as the public thoroughfares throughout the Colony.

10. The agricultural interest is in a sound and progressive state, labour fairly remunerated, and produce plentiful and reasonable in price.

11. Land sales and land revenue are steadily on the increase.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

12. The native penal establishment at Rottnest (formerly a heavy charge) is now self supporting.

13. The criminal statistics of this peculiarly circumstanced community must ever be a matter of deep interest to Her Majesty's Government as well as to the public of this Colony.

14. The total convictions before the General Quarter Sessions stand as follow:

	1855.	1856.	1857.	1858.
Convictions -	56	29	15	11

15. There were in the latter year 28 actual trials and 5 prosecutions withdrawn. The classes were as follow:

Free white men, tried - - - -	9
Do. convicted - - - -	4
Conditionally-pardoned men, tried - - -	4
Do. do. convicted - -	2
Ticket-of-leave holder, tried - - -	1
Do. do. convicted - - -	0
Aboriginal natives, tried - - - -	14
Do. do. convicted - - -	5

16. Two aboriginal natives included in this return had sentence of death recorded against them for murder inter se, but I am happy to state that there was no other sentence of death recorded during the year, and no criminal executed.

17. These returns do not of course include magisterial convictions for minor and disciplinary offences.

18. With these facts before me, I may be justified in expressing my belief that life and property are as secure in this Colony, and the people as observant of law and order, as in any part of Her Majesty's dominions.

19. These results are not obtained without forethought and labour; and while I cheerfully acknowledge the loyalty and obedience to the law which characterizes the whole population, I feel equal pleasure in recognising the services of the police and magistracy, and the good example afforded by resident employers.

20. On a general review of the Blue Book now transmitted I trust that you will consider there is ample reason for congratulation.

21. The Colony is now (and I hope permanently) free from the financial embarrassment which for so long a period retarded its progress.

22. There is a most satisfactory absence of pauperism and crime.

23. The demand for labour exceeds the supply by a wholesome proportion, the labourer is contented and comfortable, and the employers daily raising themselves in the social scale.

24. Differences between the Colonists and the Mother Country have been satisfactorily and liberally adjusted by Her Majesty's Government, and a spirit of contentment and good feeling prevails which must materially affect the general prosperity of all classes.

25. I purposely abstain from noticing subjects which might properly claim a place in this report, but which have been treated of and decided during the current correspondence of the year.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. E. KENNEDY.

The Right Hon. Sir E. B. Lytton, Bart., M.P.
&c. &c. &c.

NEW ZEALAND.

NEW ZEALAND.

[The Annual Reports from New Zealand for the Years 1855, 1856, 1857, and 1858 have not been received.]

EASTERN COLONIES.

CEYLON.

CEYLON.

No. 17.

No. 17.

COPY of DESPATCH from Governor Sir H. G. WARD, G.C.M.G., to the Right Honourable Sir EDWARD BULWER LYTTON, Bart.

(No. 135.)

SIR, Pavilion, Kandy, July 4, 1859.

HAVING had ample opportunities in the Blue Book Despatches of 1856, 1857, and 1858, of explaining my views as to the system which appeared to me best calculated to develop the resources of this colony, and my reasons for supposing that a liberal outlay upon roads, bridges, surveys, and irrigation works would be followed by a corresponding increase in the revenue, I may confine myself upon the present occasion to the task of adducing proofs that these expectations have been realized, and that, with the largest expenditure ever known upon well-considered improvements, the revenue has shown itself fully equal to the demands made upon it, and still exhibits a tendency to increase.

Revenue.

2. For the revenue of 1858 exceeded that of 1857 by 76,932*l.* 19*s.* 10*d.*, the one being 578,028*l.* 6*s.* 2½*d.*, the other 654,961*l.* 6*s.* 0½*d.* The principal items of this increase are to be found, in the customs 27,000*l.*, land revenue 20,916*l.*, building materials 13,353*l.*, salt revenue 7,231*l.* On the other hand, it must be recollected that the export duty of 2½ per cent., intended to cover the guaranteed railway interest, came into operation on the 1st January 1858, so that the increase in the customs is rather apparent than real. Indeed, there was a falling off of 7,924*l.* 12*s.* 4*d.* in the ordinary customs receipts as compared with 1857, which is ascribed by the collector to the great rise in the price of paddy and other grains, in consequence of short crops and diminished cultivation upon the continent of India, with a corresponding decrease in the imports here. The land sales too, in the central province, show a small decrease, attributable partly to the money crisis in Europe at the beginning of the year, and partly to the fact that some of the land surveyed could not be brought into the market before its close. But the increase in the land revenue, the sale of salt, and the rents derived from tolls on roads, bridges, and canals, are all signs of healthy progress, and indicate an extension of cultivation, of commercial movement, and of domestic comfort amongst the bulk of the population.

Expenditure.

3. The details of the expenditure of the year are given in the very elaborate statement of the acting Auditor General. They show a large increase in establishments, 18,447*l.*, the new scale of fixed establishments having received Her Majesty's assent, and having come into operation on the 1st July. There is also an increase of 20,000*l.* for public works, of 2,750*l.* for transport (the results of the new scale of travelling allowances introduced by the Minute of 21st June 1858); of 7,900*l.* for government vessels; of 2,000*l.* for lands taken for government purposes; and various other items, amounting in all to a net increase of 58,528*l.* over the expenditure of 1857, without including a further sum of 40,255*l.* 12*s.* 4¾*d.*, which was provided for out of the Surplus Fund Ordinances of 1856-57, and is consequently not comprehended in the ordinary or supplementary votes.

Assets and Liabilities.

4. It is very gratifying to me, under these circumstances, to be able to point to the fact, that the excess of revenue over expenditure in 1858 amounted to no less a sum

than 60,628*l.* 18*s.* 3¾*d.*, the revenue being 654,961*l.*, the expenditure 594,332*l.*, and the excess, as stated above, 60,628*l.* Including this surplus, the table of assets and liabilities shows that on the 1st January 1859 there was a balance in favour of the Ceylon Government, after debiting it with the unexpended as well as the expended amounts of the surplus fund ordinances of the last three years, of 217,572*l.* 1*s.* 5½*d.* From this, however, must be deducted a sum of 127,588*l.*, being the amount not considered "recoverable" in the sum of 99,556*l.* 8*s.* 7¼*d.*, which according to custom appears amongst the assets, viz.—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Irrecoverable - - - - -	78,494	10	0
Amounts recoverable, but included as such in estimate of revenue for current year - -	21,061	18	7¼
Surcharges - - - - -	2,319	10	3¼
Widows' pension fund - -	25,712	0	0
	127,588	0	0

and a further sum of 20,000*l.* voted under the Surplus Fund Ordinance, No. 12 of 1858, which has not yet received Her Majesty's assent. This reduces the net available surplus over and above the revenue of the year on the 1st of January 1859 to 69,984*l.*

Surplus Fund Ordinances.

5. But if the balance be less, the colony may turn with pride to the useful works executed under the five Surplus Fund Ordinances that have passed since 1856, amounting in all to 191,000*l.*; the purchase of a colonial steamer, 10,000*l.*; of a second steamer for immigration purposes, 5,500*l.*; the construction of an electric telegraph from Galle to Manaar, 17,000*l.*; the outlay of 41,500*l.* in roads and bridges, in aid of the general revenue; of 15,000*l.* in civil and 22,000*l.* in military buildings, and of 39,000*l.* in irrigation works, the fruits of which will, I trust, be apparent in the increasing revenue of subsequent years. It will be advisable to husband carefully the balance now in hand as a resource against unforeseen contingencies, and this may be done without detriment to the colony, because of the great changes effected by the outlay already incurred. The largest improvements have been already carried out, or are in course of completion. The bridges thrown over the Mahawilla Ganga at Gampolle and Kattoogastotte, with the connecting roads, leave little to be desired in that respect in the central province; and the provision made for military quarters, government offices and courts, will, I think, meet the public requirements for many years. With the exception, therefore, of the building intended for the Supreme Court at Hulfsdorp, and some small additional charges for electric telegraph and irrigation works, I hope not to be under the necessity of making any heavy demand upon the surplus fund during the ensuing session, and this would be the more desirable as from the large increase in military allowances, and the general demand for enlarged custom-house accommodation at Colombo, it seems improbable that there will be any surplus at the close of the present year, after providing for the ordinary and supplementary expenditure; so that 70,000*l.* in round numbers is all that now remains to the credit of the colony, after providing for the unexpended balances of the Surplus Fund Ordinances in the Treasury or the Oriental Bank.

Revenue and Expenditure since 1854.

6. I cannot better illustrate the working of the system, which, under the sanction of Her Majesty's Government, and with the support of the colonial legislature, I have pursued since my arrival in Ceylon in May 1855, than by submitting to you the accompanying returns which have been prepared for me by the Auditor General, though not usually included in the Blue Book. The first shows the available cash balances of the colony from the 1st of January 1855 to the 1st of January 1859, by which you will perceive that I began with a balance of 40,781*l.* bequeathed to me by my predecessor, and that I have now a balance of 69,984*l.*, after an extraordinary expenditure of 191,000*l.* in the last three years. The second shows the estimated and actual revenue of each of the five years, the actual expenditure (under ordinary and supplementary votes), and the actual surplus; the expenditure having increased from 393,268*l.* in

1.
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3.

CEYLON.

1854 to 594,333*l.* in 1858, while the surplus has risen almost in a similar degree, having been 14,773*l.* when the expenditure was least, and 60,628*l.* when it was greatest in 1858. The third gives the surplus fund votes for the same period, and the balances remaining unexpended up to 31st March 1859. I may add that the revenue of the current year continues to exhibit the same buoyancy, the receipts from the 1st of January to 30th April being 290,758*l.*, the expenditure 197,225*l.*, which, after adding 25,000*l.* for the Colonial Agent in London, leaves a surplus of 68,533*l.* on the first four months, and indicates a great probability that the revenue of the year will not fall short of 720,000*l.*

7. I trust that this plain satement of facts, indicating as it does, the tendency of a liberal expenditure to increase the resources of a colony, the producing powers of which have never yet been fairly tested, will relieve me from the charge of having been prodigal or careless in the application of the public means, while the annually recurring difference between the estimated and the actual revenue sufficiently explains the large proportion of the expenditure that has been provided for by supplementary votes, the Governor being forbidden by the colonial regulations to submit to the Council proposals for any expenditure for which the estimated revenue will not enable him to provide. I am aware that the large expenditure that took place under the supplementary votes of 1857 and 1858 has given some umbrage, and furnishes a handle to those who wish to make out that the Councils have not sufficient authority in these matters. I am most desirous to avoid this; but I can only do so by delaying useful improvements for twelve or eighteen months, and against this both planters and merchants protest. For example, a road wants repair to make it passable for the coming crop. It was not included in the estimates of last session, because the amount at the disposal of the Council was absorbed by weightier claims. It is known, however, that on the first quarter of the current year there is a surplus of nearly 30,000*l.* Are the repairs to wait for the meeting of the Council in July, and to be included in the estimates for 1860, or to be done at once by order of the Governor, and covered by a supplementary vote? The constitutional principle is to wait; the more convenient practice is to get the thing done first, and sanctioned afterwards; and this is the course that I have adopted hitherto, with the apparent concurrence of the legislature, which has in every instance sanctioned the additional expenditure, without a dissentient vote. If I knew how to avoid the necessity for it, I would do so; for I see clearly that it may be misconstrued. But time is so precious, and the Government is so much pressed for advances, as soon as it is known that it has the means, that it is hard to withhold a service to which no one seems to object.

CASH IN HAND.

Customs.

4.

8. The Treasurer states the cash in hand in the general treasury and the several cutcherries on the 1st of January 1859 to have been 117,113*l.* 16*s.* 7¾*d.*, leaving a balance of 64,990*l.* 18*s.* 1*d.* in favour of the Government, after deducting the amount of deposits, and of the treasury notes still out standing. To this must be added the loan of 100,000*l.* to the Oriental Bank, which is still intact, though a portion of it represents the unexpended balances of the surplus fund votes.

Customs.

9. There was a slight increase in the imports of 1858 as compared with 1857, the last having amounted to 1,946,557*l.*, the first to 2,029,861*l.* The imports of rice and paddy were, however, less by 519,422 bushels, from causes to which I have already adverted. The export of coffee fell from 602,266 to 544,634 cwts., but the difference may be accounted for by the efforts made to ship as large a proportion of the new crop as possible, before the export duty came into operation on the 1st January 1858. The total revenue, thanks to that duty, shows an increase of 26,121*l.*

Public Works.

See Blue Book Returns, page 209.

10. The abstract attached to the schedule of public works shows that the total expenditure of the year, including establishments and ordnance labour, was 169,742*l.*

Of this 7,361*l.* were applied to the opening of new roads, 75,661*l.* to the upkeep of roads and canals, 17,151*l.* to the repair of bridges, 17,741*l.* to new buildings, 12,381*l.* to the repair of old buildings, and 17,471*l.* in labour, under the Ordinance, No. 8. of 1848. This does not include any portion of the work done under the surplus fund votes. In general I have every reason to be satisfied with the manner in which the department is conducted, and with the stimulus given to it by the new scale of pay introduced under the Fixed Establishment Bill. The roads generally are in a state highly creditable to the colony. The Gampolle Bridge was opened to the public on the 1st of Jannary. and is as remarkable for its beauty as for its utility. The seven iron lattice bridges put up in the north-western, western, and central provinces, have excited general admiration amongst both Europeans and Natives, to whom this style of bridging was unknown. And the bridge at Kattoogastotte, of which an excellent view will be found in the Ceylon Almanac of this year, is advancing satisfactorily, and will shortly connect the town of Kandy with the extensive coffee districts to the north and east. I had an opportunity of inspecting nearly the whole line of the electric telegraph, on my route from Dambool to Aripo, and I was perfectly satisfied with the manner in which the work has been executed, although I am equally so that the colony has paid an unfair proportion of the cost, since India and England benefit much more largely than Ceylon by the results. Its commercial advantages to this island have yet to be developed. As a pecuniary investment it will never pay.

Government Houses at Colombo and Kandy.

11. The reports of the Deputy Commissary General and Civil Engineer show that both the buildings and furniture of the Queen's houses are in a state of good repair, and require little except the usual annual outlay in drainage and other small alterations which the climate renders indispensable.

Legislation.

12. Fifteen ordinances were passed in the session of 1858, one of which, though apparently of little moment, deserves some special mention, because of the use subsequently made of it by those who advocate a change in the composition of the Legislative Council, as a proof that the un-official members, even when unanimous, do not command the weight to which they are entitled. I allude to Ordinance, No. 4., for establishing an additional toll upon the Pangwella Road.

13. This ordinance was prepared and brought in in the usual way upon the recommendation of the government agent for the central province. It appeared to me, and to the majority of the official members, equitable in principle, the road having been recently extended for twelve miles, at a very heavy cost to the public, and forming part of that system or network of roads which were about to be connected with the Kattoogastotte Bridge, under the Surplus Fund Ordinance, No. 5., the entire project involving an outlay of 35,000*l.* I explained fully and repeatedly that the principle upon which I had acted in all these Surplus Fund Ordinances was to secure to the public a fair return for its expenditure; that in all grants for irrigation works the lands sold to the Natives at 1*l.* per acre (being the upset price of coffee land) was sold subject to tithe; whereas coffee land, in consideration of the larger outlay required to bring it into cultivation, contributed nothing directly to the revenue; and that if, in addition to this exemption, roads were to be made in the planting districts, without some corresponding addition to the tolls, such an instance of partiality would furnish just ground of complaint. Against this it was argued by the opponents of the bill, that the planters had contributed largely to the original tracing of the road, which was true, though the money had been so badly laid out that it did not diminish the subsequent cost; and that as upon the main line between Colombo and Kandy there was an annual surplus accruing from tolls, after providing for the upkeep, no road communicating with the Kandy Road should be subjected to additional toll until this surplus was expended.

14. Upon these grounds the division took place. It was not a *small* point, but a very important point, that had been raised, and the decision of the majority was decidedly in favour of the ordinance, which has since received the Queen's assent; yet few things, in the last four years, have excited greater differences of opinion in the colony, or given

CEYLON.

rise to sharper comments from the press. My own opinion upon the subject continues unaltered. I believe that the Government and the majority were right, and that the un-official members, by their union, only showed the danger that there would be of class legislature where class interests are involved, if the influence of the Government in the Council were too much weakened.

15. Ordinance No. 5. was the result of my southern tour, and provided with great liberality for the various objects of public utility referred to in my Minute.

16. Ordinance No. 6 created a new machinery for taking up private lands for railway purposes, and the powers granted by it were not the less necessary beeause they have not been used, the fact of their existence having sufficed to enable the Government agent to acquire the land as fast as it was wanted, upon reasonable terms.

17. The Supplementary Supply Ordinance No. 9 passed without division or comment of any kind, though involving the large amount of 85,880*l.* 15*s.* 11¾*d.*, and the Supply Ordinance for 1859 (No. 10.) gave rise to as little discussion as can be expected in a matter by which so many local interests are affected. The general impression certainly appeared to be that the proposals of the government were judicious and just.

18. A second Surplus Fund Ordinance (No. 12.) was brought in at the close of the session, to cover 14,000*l.* of military and 6,000*l.* of civil expenditure, which it was found impossible to include in the estimates for the current year, and passed unanimously, *without being referred to a committee.*

19. The two last ordinances, No. 14 and 15, gave rise to long and interesting debates, which were submitted to Her Majesty's Government at the time, in much detail. It is most gratifying to me to find that Ordinance No. 14 will receive Her Majesty's assent, for it would have been a disappointment and discouragement to the Kandyan people if this spontaneous attempt on their part to elevate and purify their social institution as regards marriage had been delayed by any technical objection to the act. It is a most important step in advance taken by an oriental people, and is well entitled at the present time to the interest which you have been pleased to manifest in its success.

20. As I am not aware of the reasons that have prevented Her Majesty's Government hitherto from coming to any decision respecting the Immigration Ordinance, I can only repeat my hope that this state of uncertainty may not be prolonged, as the delay is attended with much inconvenience to the colony, and disturbs the usual arrangements for the importation of labour from the coast of India, without substituting anything new in their place.

Survey Department.

5.

21. The accompanying memorandum from the acting Surveyor General presents a very satisfactory view of the state of the department during the year 1858, and of the results produced by the large additional strength now brought to bear upon a work, the importance of which it is impossible to overrate, for surveys and the easy acquisition of land with a government title to it are the first condition of progress and regular industry in a colony where so large a proportion of the soil is still vested in the Crown.

22. Under these circumstances it is highly important that 35,000 acres of land, or 14,000 acres in excess of 1857, should have been surveyed, and placed in the hands of the government agents for sale. The sum realized within the year amounts to 33,425*l.*, which is less by 3,507*l.* than the produce of 1857. But a considerable amount of land appears to be still undisposed of, and will be brought to account during the present year. Eight hundred and thirty lots have been sold to Native purchasers, with the effect, in every district, of creating a large additional demand. Surveys of the towns of Gampolle, Ratnapoora, Badulla, Kurnegalle, and Kandy have been already completed or are now in progress; 40 trigonometrical points have been erected, in connexion with the base line, measured near Negombo in 1857; and various other useful operations have been carried on.

23. The additional surveyors engaged by Captain Gosset have now arrived, and remunerative employment will be found for all of them, without the slightest difficulty; indeed, I believe that the whole strength of the department might be employed most advantageously for the next two years in preparing for the new commutation, which will take place throughout the central and eastern provinces in 1861, if it were possible to suspend the sales of land for so long a period. I have not the least fear, therefore, that

the increase in the establishment will prove too large for the wants of the colony. Its cost during the present year will not fall short of 20,756*l.*; but this will be amply covered by fees and landsales, if the work of improvement be not checked by those financial embarrassments to which an European war too frequently gives rise; and even if the European demand for large blocks of land for coffee planting should be suspended, there is a Native demand growing up for small allotments in so many different directions, and, judging by the prices realized, with so great a probability of increase, that I feel the greatest confidence in the results.

Pearl Fishery.

24. The results obtained by the Pearl Fishery of 1858 would have been greater than they proved to be had it not been for an outbreak of cholera at a time when the prospects of the fishery were at the brightest, and the recurrence of a combination among the buyers, similar in object to that of 1857, but of a much more formidable character.

25. This combination was formed by the chetties or Hindoo merchants of Colombo, with the avowed object of obtaining the entire produce of the fishery at the very lowest possible rates, and after the two first days sale, at which the oysters realized from 19 to 19¾ rupees per 1,000. It was joined by the most influential of the Indian chetties and Moorish merchants present. The combination then assumed a more organized shape; articles of agreement were entered into, any breach of which was to be visited by heavy penalties, no less than the forfeiture of 1,000 rupees from a common fund subscribed by the speculators, and deposited for the purpose, and the excommunication of the delinquent from their societies, while the wavering were restrained from abandoning the league, and others induced to join it, by the threat that the credits of any person raising competition at the sales would be dishonoured; a threat easily enforced, as the chetties are the bankers of the Native merchants. It was agreed that only one person should bid for the oysters; that he should never exceed 15 rupees, a price which was to be reduced daily as circumstances permitted; and that the quantity purchased should be divided amongst the subscribers; accordingly, when the third day's sale was commencing, the only offer made was 15 rupees, and on the Superintendent, Mr. Vane, refusing to entertain so low an offer, the speculators left the cutcherry in a body, and all further operations were suspended.

26. The prospects of the fishery were at this moment most critical. Mr. Vane was beset with difficulties much greater than those to which he was exposed in 1857. Then the yield of oysters was inexhaustible, and the abundance counteracted the lowness of the price. The combination, though formidable, was partial. Now he knew, as did the speculators, that the quantity was so limited that it was unlikely to exceed the estimate; that the oysters would be exhausted before even a reasonable return could be received at the existing prices; and that the league comprised almost every monied man at the fishery. To continue the sales, therefore, under such circumstances, would be to sacrifice the revenue to enrich private speculators. The only course was to break up the combination, or, if this failed, to abandon the fishery entirely.

27. After three days of inaction, the speculators adhering to their combination, Mr. Vane prepared to close the fishery; called for tenders for the conveyance of the troops to Colombo, and detained the vessels still in the roads, which had brought the civil officers to Arippo. These preparations for departure produced the desired effect. The chetties came forward, and themselves committed a breach of their own agreement, by offering higher prices; the combination was instantly broken; the sales were resumed, the prices rose steadily till they reached from 22 to 25 rupees for the whole of each day's fishing; some small quantities exceeding 26 rupees. Eighteen days fishing realised 24,120*l.*, and Mr. Vane's tact and judgment seemed on the point of being rewarded by large and unlooked for results, when cholera unfortunately appeared, and he was compelled to close the fishery on the 1st of April, leaving three or four millions of oysters unfished, worth at the current prices from 8*l.* to 10,000*l.*

28. The total yield of oysters during the 18 days' fishing was 16,485,254 oysters; 1,084 boats were employed, averaging 15,208 per boat. The total quantity composing the Government share, the divers' portion being deducted, was 12,364,539 oysters, realising an average of 19½ rupees, or 1*l.* 19*s.* per 1,000 throughout, the total receipts

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being, as I have before stated, 24,120*l.*, or 3,756*l.* in excess of the receipts of the fishery of 1857.

29. The fishery, therefore, all things considered, must be regarded as eminently successful, though it is well known that the profits of the purchasers were enormous. The whole credit of the success is due to Mr. Vane, who showed a degree of firmness and decision of character which under the circumstances in which he was placed are most creditable to him.

30. It was considered doubtful if the oysters remaining on the cheval paar would live till the following year. Mr. Vane, however, recorded his opinion, that if they did the pearls would be very valuable, the justice of which has been proved by the almost unexampled success of this year's fishery.

Public Health.

31. The southern and eastern provinces were visited by an unusally severe outbreak of cholera during the months of July and August. The return prepared by the principal civil medical officer shows 615 deaths out of 1,732 seizures in these districts; but there is, I fear, much reason to believe that these figures are very far below the actual number of cases. Many thousands of pilgrims flock annually to the great Hindoo festival at Kattragam, during which cholera raged with fearful virulence, and the roads to and from the temple and village were represented at the time as strewed with the dead and dying. The return is necessarily limited to cases which come under the treatment or observation of medical officers, while it is feared many more occurred, and proved fatal, far beyond their reach. There were 118 cases at Aripo, of which 66 were fatal, before the crowd attracted by the pearl fishery could be dispersed by its close. Manaar is seldom free from cholera, as it is the port by which the Tamil labourers employed on the coffee estates enter Ceylon, and last year 331 deaths were reported out of 420. In other respects the public health during the past year may be considered to have been satisfactory.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. G. WARD.

The Right Honourable Sir E. B. Lytton, Bart.

&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure 1. in No. 17.

Encl.1.inNo.17.

STATE of available Cash Balance of the Colony for the Years 1854, 1855, 1856, 1857, and 1858.

1st January 1855:

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Balance in favour of the Ceylon Government	-		-	150,894	18	9¾			
Deduct Revenue Debts - -	- 104,556	18	4½						
„ Advances - -	- 5,556	8	2						
				110,113	6	6½			
Net available Balance	- -		-				40,781	12	3¼

1st January 1856:

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Balance in favour of the Ceylon Government	-		-	218,477	19	11¾			
Deduct Revenue Debts - -	- 104,746	14	6¼						
„ Surcharges - -	- 2,173	15	2¾						
„ Advances - - -	- 8,755	14	4½						
				115,676	4	1½			
Net available Balance	-		-				102,801	15	10¼

1st January 1857:

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Balance in favour of the Ceylon Government	-		-	259,638	5	11½			
Deduct Revenue Debts - -	- 103,062	17	11¾						
„ Surcharges - -	- 2,380	3	2						
				105,443	1	1¾			
Net available Balance	- -		-				154,195	4	9¾

1st January 1858:

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Balance in favour of the Ceylon Government	-		-	269,886	17	1½			
Deduct Revenue Debts - -	- 103,721	1	2¾						
„ Surcharges - -	- 711	19	11½						
„ Widows' Fund - -	- 25,712	0	0						
				130,145	1	2¼			
Net available Balance	- -		-				139,741	15	11¼

1st January 1859:

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Balance in favour of the Ceylon Government	-		-	217,572	1	5½			
Deduct Revenue Debts - - -	99,556	8	7¼						
„ Surcharges - - -	2,319	10	3¼						
„ Widows' Fund - - -	25,712	0	0						
				127,587	18	10½			
Net available Balance	- -		-				* 89,984	2	7

* Inclusive of the sum of 20,000*l.* voted under the Surplus Fund Ordinance, No. 12 of 1858.

Enclosure 2. in No. 17.

Encl.2.inNo.17.

RETURN showing the Estimated and Actual Revenue, the Actual Expenditure, and the Surplus Revenue of each Year from 1855 to 1858.

	Estimated Revenue.			Actual Revenue.			Actual Expenditure.			Surplus Revenue.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1854 - -	404,000	0	0	408,041	0	0	393,268	0	0	14,773	0	0
1855 - -	416,100	0	0	476,273	0	0	405,610	0	0	70,663	0	0
1856 - -	430,100	0	0	504,174	0	0	457,137	0	0	47,037	0	0
1857 - -	492,000	0	0	578,028	0	0	535,804	0	0	42,224	0	0
1858 - -	571,500	0	0	654,961	0	0	594,333	0	0	60,628	0	0

Encl. 3. in No. 17.

Enclosure 3. in No. 17.

RETURN of Surplus Fund Votes and Balances remaining on the 31st December 1858.

	Ordinance No. 17. of 1856.	Ordinance No. 11. of 1857.	Ordinance No. 17. of 1857.	Ordinance No. 5. of 1858.	Ordinance No. 12. of 1858.	TOTAL.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Amount voted - -	37,000 0 0*	9,000 0 0	51,000 0 0†	60,000 0 0	20,000 0 0	177,000 0 0
Amount expended to 31st December 1858 - -	33,930 13 10½	8,935 1 7	24,490 10 4½	5,251 9 4	- - -	72,607 15 2
Balance remaining - -	3,069 6 1½	64 18 5	26,509 9 7½	54,748 10 8	20,000 0 0	104,392 4 10
Aggregate Expenditure to 31st March 1859 - - - - - - -						8,868 6 11½
Balance - - - - - - - - - - - £						95,523 17 10½

* Less 1,000*l.* for promoting the settlement of immigrant agriculturists at Kandella.

† Less 13,000*l.* to cover excess of expenditure by the agent in London in 1856.

(Signed) T. SKINNER,
Acting Auditor General.

Encl. 4. in No. 17

Enclosure 4. in No. 17.

STATEMENT of Cash in hand in the General Treasury and the several Cutcherries on the 1st January 1859.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Amount in coined money - -	106,818	6	7¾			
„ Treasury notes - -	1	0	0			
„ Bank notes - - -	10,294	10	0			
				117,113	16	7¾
Deduct—						
Amount of Deposits - - -	51,146	18	6¾			
Amount of Treasury notes in circulation	976	0	0			
				52,122	18	6¾
Balance in favour of Government - -				64,990	18	1

General Treasury, Colombo,
14th May 1859.

(Signed) J. CAULFIELD,
Treasurer.

N.B.—In addition to the above Balance a loan of 100,000*l.* made in 1857 and 1858 remains in the Oriental Bank Corporation.

Encl. 5. in No. 17.

Enclosure 5 in No. 17.

Surveyor General's Office, Colombo,
February 17, 1859.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward, for the information of his Excellency the Governor, a return showing the progress of my department during the year 1858.

The amount of work done in the year is very satisfactory; the area of land surveyed and forwarded to the government agents being 35,000 acres, or 14,000 acres in excess of 1857. The sum realised by land sales and fees amounts to 33,425*l.*, but this is less than that of 1857 by 3,507*l.*, and the difference is attributable to the fact that the government agents did not advertise for sale all the lots submitted to them by this department.

The applications and interests of the Natives in all the provinces have received very particular attention, no less than about 830 lots having been sold to that class of applicants. The result is highly satisfactory, as in many cases where one application was attended to numbers of others were applied for.

To be added to the year's progress, as detailed in the return, are the following operations :—

1. Completion of a survey of the town of Gampolla.
2. Do. do. do. Ratnapoora.
3. Nearly do. do. Kornegalle.
4. Surveying part of Badulla.
5. Commencement of that very important and long delayed undertaking, the survey of Kandy.
6. The erection of 40 trigonometrical points in the western province, for extending a triangulation from the new base measured near Negombo in 1857.
7. The reduction of the new base line, and calculation of the new triangulation by Mr. Winzer.
8. Surveyed and submitted plans, &c. of the land required by the railway company for the Colombo terminus and 12 miles of the line.

Out of these operations valuable results and large proceeds may be looked for during 1859.

I wish this to be considered as a mere memorandum of the *principal operations* which have engaged my department during the year. The usual annual return and report will be prepared and submitted in due time by my successor, Captain Sim.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. A. EVATT.

The Honourable the Colonial Secretary,
&c. &c. &c.

SURVEYOR GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT.

LANDS surveyed, sent to Government Agents for sale, and sold, &c., during 1858.

PROVINCES.	Forwarded for sale, &c.'			Advertised first time.		Sold and otherwise disposed of.				Advertised but not sold at the end of the Year.		Unadvertised in the hands of the Government Agents at the end of the Year.		Title Plans forwarded.	
	No. of Lots.	Extents.	Fees.	No. of Lots.	Extents.	No. of Lots.	Extents.	Fees.	Sold for.	No. of Lots.	Extents.	No. of Lots.	Extents.	No. of Lots.	Extents.
		A. R. P.	£ s. d.		A R. P.		A R. P.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		A. R. P.		A. R. P.		A. R. P.
Western - -	819	5,152 1 9·30	1,674 4 6	426	4,151 2 34·80	296	2,795 0 35·60	817 12 0	7,985 13 6	168	1,526 1 23	389	979 0 11·70	86	1,536 3 35
Central - -	531	17,675 3 10·	3,209 3 0	342	16,083 0 9·	259	9,593 1 3·27	1,694 0 6	14,772 6 4	134	7,624 3 30	182	1,556 2 17·	195	11,392 2 32
Southern - -	180	1,375 2 16·	436 11 0	82	514 0 5·	37	89 1 3·	46 17 0	223 7 2	48	426 1 25	95	849 3 28·	11	54 0 21
Eastern - -	433	3,714 0 33·	1,210 17 0	337	2,801 1 34·	228	1,938 1 15·	629 16 0	4,691 6 6	172	1,323 0 18	85	912 0 25·	13	19 1 30
North-Western -	203	7,252 0 19·	1,399 19 0	88	3,738 1 15·	53	1,335 3 34·	256 4 0	2,308 11 0	65	3,174 3 16	114	3,473 1 4·	66	2,782 1 10
TOTAL -	2,166	35,160 0 7·30	7,930 14 6	1,275	27,288 2 17·80	873	15,752 0 10·87	3,444 9 6	29,981 4 6	587	14,075 2 32	865	7,771 0 5·70	371	15,785 2 8

(Signed) H. A. EVATT.

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No. 18.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir John Bowring to the Right Honourable Sir Edward B. Lytton, Bart., M.P.

(No. 54.)

Government Offices, Victoria,
Hong Kong, 29th March 1859.

Sir,

I have now the honour to forward to you the Blue Book of this colony for the year 1858. I venture to anticipate your satisfaction with the results which the volume records, and trust that the present position and progress of the colony, and its bright prospects for the future, will enable you to approve of the general conduct of the government during the five years in which I have been honoured with its charge.

2. As the period is now approaching when I am to surrender my trust into other hands I deem myself justified in laying before you the statistics of my administration, and in comparing the five years which preceded that administration with the five years succeeding.

3. The following are the Returns of Revenue and Expenditure, Parliamentary Grants, Population, and Shipping, from the years 1849 to 1858 inclusive:—

Table showing the Revenue and Expenditure of Hong Kong, Parliamentary Grants, Population, and Shipping for the years from 1849 to 1858 inclusive.

Years.	Revenue.			Parliamentary Grant.	Total Income.			Expenditure.			Population.	Shipping.	
	£	s.	d.	£	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.		Nos.	Tons.
1849 - -	23,617	3	3	25,000	48,617	3	3	38,986	1	6¾	29,507	902	293,465
1850 - -	23,526	16	4¾	20,000	43,526	16	4¾	34,314	12	3	33,292	883	299,609
1851 - -	23,721	7	6¼	15,500	39,221	7	6¼	34,115	7	6	32,983	1,082	377,084
1852 - -	21,331	1	8¼	12,000	33,331	1	8¼	34,765	12	9½	37,058	1,097	443,383
1853 - -	24,700	6	3½	9,200	33,900	6	3½	36,418	12	0½	39,017	1,103	447,053
Total for 5 years -	116,896	15	1¾	81,700	198,596	15	1¾	178,600	6	1¾	171,857	5,067	1,859,994
Average per Annum	23,379	7	0	16,340	39,719	7	0	35,720	1	2¾	34,371	1,013	371,998
1854 - -	27,045	3	5¼	4,400	31,445	3	5¼	34,635	0	1	56,011	1,100	443,354
1855 - -	47,973	11	1¼	- -	47,973	11	1¼	40,813	11	2	72,925	1,736	604,570
1856 - -	35,500	8	9	- -	35,500	8	9	42,426	6	5½	71,730	2,091	811,307
1857 - -	58,842	2	7	*10,000	68,842	2	7	65,497	19	7½	77,094	1,070	541,063
1858 - -	62,476	9	8¼	10,000	72,476	9	8¼	62,979	8	1¾	75,503	1,007	716,476
Total for 5 years -	231,837	15	6¾	24,400	256,237	15	6¾	246,352	5	5¾	353,263	7,004	3,116,770
Average per Annum	46,367	11	1¼	4,880	51,247	11	1¼	49,270	9	1	70,652	1,400	623,354

* For measures of precaution and defence.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Victoria, Hong Kong, 9th March 1859.

(Signed) W. T. Mercer, Colonial Secretary.

4. I have placed among the Parliamentary grants the two sums amounting to 20,000*l.* voted in 1857 and 1858, but as they are on account of special objects, and not for the ordinary services of the colony, I may state that the Imperial assistance should be estimated at *nil* since 1854, or if averaged over the five years of my government it amounts to 880*l.* per annum, in contrast to an average of 16,340*l.* for the five years preceding.

5. As regards the ordinary revenue it has been doubled during my administration, and the last year of my government, as compared with the last year of my predecessor, presents an increase of 37,776*l.*, or more than 150 per cent.

6. The total income of the colony (including Parliamentary grants) presents an average augmentation of 11,528*l.*, being about 30 per cent., but taking the last year of the

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two periods the difference in favour of the second is 26,561*l.*, or more than 70 per cent.

7. With reference to population the average increase during the last five years is 36,281, or more than 100 per cent. But, as regards the returns of 1857 and 1858, I am persuaded there must be some error, as the continued building of Chinese houses, crowded to excess and occupied at greatly raised rents, affords substantial evidence of a great augmentation of the population during last year, and that augmentation I feel justified in believing is not less than 10,000 souls. I calculate the present population of the colony at 85,000. Its fluctuating and ambulatory character may excuse and account for inaccuracies in the census.

8. Nor are the shipping returns less satisfactory. They show in the five years an average yearly increase of 487 vessels representing 251,350 tons, being 68 per cent. The increase of 1853, as compared with 1858, is 269,423 tons, representing 60 per cent. The extension of our relations with all the countries of the furthest East,—the circumstance that Hong Kong is the place of arrival and departure of mail communications, and the head quarters of all the great commercial establishments in China are likely to preserve and perpetuate the rank it has now obtained of being one of the most extensively visited harbours to the east of the Cape of Good Hope. There are few ports whose tonnage returns equal or even approach those of Hong Kong.

9. I would add here that during the last five years the general value of lands and houses has enormously increased, and that in the last year no important sales of Crown lands have taken place, so that this source of revenue has not come to our aid. There is difficulty in finding locations either for Europeans or Chinese. I expect that the development of relations with the ports in China to the north, with Japan and other circumjacent regions, will lead to an extension of the population towards the east, while to the west the growth of a superior character of Chinese houses is one of the most marked and pleasing signs of improvement. There can be no doubt of the present opulence of many of the Chinese settlers who came penniless to the colony, and who from labourers and fishermen have become shopkeepers; from shopkeepers, merchants and shipowners. Their relations with foreign countries are everywhere spreading, and they carry on their transactions with many of the subordinate ports which are little known to or visited by foreign merchants. I may mention, as illustrative of Chinese enterprise, that in a place only lately opened to foreign trade (Zamboanga, in the Island of Mindanao), the importation in 1858 by the Chinese of manufactures, principally British, amounted in value to 400,000*l.* sterling.

10. As regards the prospective resources of the colony, a valuable piece of ground in the most frequented part of the city will be soon at the disposal of Government, and will, no doubt, produce a considerable sum of money. The purchase of the large house (as advised in my Despatch, No. 16, of 25th January last) for the new Civil Hospital will enable us to remove the mount called Pedder's Hill, on the top of which the present incommodious Civil Hospital stands; the materials of the mount will be conveniently near to assist in recoveries from the sea and the formation of the Praya, and the removal of these materials will leave a large level spot as public property. If any portion of it, or the building erected on it, should be appropriated to public purposes, the Court House and Post Office might be removed thither without any public inconvenience, and for these edifices a great price would be given in consequence of their adjacency to the sea frontage.

11. I cannot doubt that both to the east and the west of the city there will ere long be an augmented demand for land. Population is rapidly growing in the neighbourhood of Spring Gardens, and the removal of Hospital Hill, which is close to that locality, would provide valuable ground and furnish excellent materials for extending and utilizing the sea frontage. The western extremity of the city is filling even more rapidly with Chinese settlers; and I quite concur with the Colonial Secretary in opinion, that the deprecatory observations on the futurity of the colony, which have obtained circulation in England, are the results of a hasty and uninformed judgment, to which the statistics of Hong Kong furnish an emphatic and most convincing reply.

12. The improvement of the roads leading to Aberdeen and Stanley, and the erection of the Aberdeen Docks, now nearly completed, will bring to the southern portions of the island a population whose presence must tend greatly to increase the value of the Crown property.

13. The possession of the small peninsula opposite the island is become of more and more importance. To say nothing of questions of military and naval defence, it would be of great commercial and sanatory value to us (while to the Chinese it is not only of no

value, but a seat of anarchy and a source of embarrassment). I hope, therefore, measures will be taken for obtaining a cession of this tract of land.

14. One subject I wish again to press on the attention of Her Majesty's Government. There have been many proposals to tax the commerce of Hong Kong for general and special purposes. Believing that the satisfactory development of our prosperity is mainly due to the emancipation of all shipping and trade from fiscal vexations and exactions, I trust no custom house machinery will ever be introduced either for the collection of tariff or harbour dues, or for any purpose which may check the free ingress and egress of all shipping to and from the port, nor the free transfer of commodities from hand to hand. Hong Kong presents another example of the elasticity and potency of unrestricted commerce, which in my judgment has more than counterbalanced the barrenness of its soil, the absence of agricultural and manufacturing industry, the disadvantages of its climate, and every impediment which could clog its progress. Its magnificent harbour invites the flags of all nations, which there is nothing in its legislation to repel. Its laws give no privileges to any, but afford equal security to all; and I am persuaded the equity with which justice is administered is beginning to produce a most salutary effect on the minds of the Chinese people.

15. The year through which we have passed has been one of great embarrassment. The unhappy misunderstandings among the officials, fomented by passionate partizanship and by a reckless and slanderous newspaper press, made the conduct of public affairs one of extreme difficulty; and in a colony like this where, if functionaries are displaced, it is not easy to find fit successors; the distance from home and the indifferent reputation of the climate (not a good one certainly, but its unhealthiness has been much exaggerated,) render it so little attractive, that few desirable candidates can be found for official employment. I had sometimes reason to fear that the machinery of administration would be absolutely dislocated by the unseemly contentions which could not but greatly impair the efficiency of officers so frequently engaged in mutual recriminations. Many heads of departments were absent from the colony; illness interfered with the usefulness of others. We are now happily at peace, and I hope shall continue so, and that my successor will be spared the anxieties which have surrounded me. I am, however, strongly confirmed in one conclusion, that it is impossible the public service should not suffer if functionaries, especially the higher ones, are allowed to profit by private professional engagements. The enormous power and influence of the great commercial houses in China, when associated directly or indirectly with personal pecuniary advantages, which they are able to confer on public officers who are permitted to be employed and engaged by them, cannot but create a conflict between duties not always compatible with one another. The colony is quite in a condition liberally to provide for its public servants, and to Her Majesty's Government and to the colony alone ought they to look for remuneration of their services. In reference to colonial disputes, I cannot pass over in silence the great claims which Mr. Caldwell, the Registrar General, has upon the colony and upon Her Majesty's Government for rendering aid, such as he only could render, and of which so much evidence has been given in the past year, while everything has been done by his enemies to undermine his reputation and destroy his efficiency.

16. The satisfactory state of the revenue for the past year is referred to in the report of the Colonial Secretary, and the position of the finances is still more gratifying from the fact, that the augmentation of the income grows not out of transitory and uncertain but from those permanent sources which are more likely to be strengthened than weakened by the progress of time. It must be remembered that we have no direct taxation, but the police and lighting rates, which barely suffice to cover the expenditure under those particular heads. One impost has been removed whose productiveness was small and whose annoyances and inconvenience great, that upon salt, which having been wholly freed from taxation, has become an article of increased commercial importance.

17. After providing for the fixed and ordinary expenses, a handsome balance will remain for application to public works. Those recommended for special attention will be adequately provided for. The Government grant for the Civil Hospital has enabled us to obtain a building singularly well adapted to the object, placed on a very healthy locality, and which being in good repair saves the costs, delays, and uncertainties of erecting a new building.

18. The gaol too will be promptly proceeded with. Beyond the Parliamentary grant for 5,000*l.* it is doubtful whether more outlay will be required for the present year. The healthiness and accessibleness of the site has determined in the negative the question of its removal, considerations paramount to that of the value of the ground were it sold by the Government for general purposes.

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19. I regret that I am compelled to leave the Bowring Praya in a far less advanced state than I had hoped for. As to the importance of this great improvement, its value to the salubrity—the police—the appearance of Victoria—there cannot be two disinterested opinions. It has been advocated by a succession of governors, strongly recommended by a commission specially appointed to weigh all the objections which could be urged against it and finally approved by positive instructions from Mr. Secretary Labouchere (in his Despatch, No. 128. of 10th November 1856), whenever, after the completion of the public works then sanctioned, the funds of the colony should furnish means for its construction. The resistance to the Praya which has been perseveringly led by Mr. Dent, L.C., has been confined to a few influential, I may say almost omnipotent, merchants in this colony, who having largely invaded the rights of the Crown and appropriated to their private use what was always intended (as all the leases provide) for public purposes, have, whenever the question came to be discussed of the erection of that portion of the Praya of which they hold the frontage, created and kept alive an opposition under which the Government has been temporarily compelled to succumb. I should mention here that the whole amount of land recovered and appropriated by the lessees against the rights of the Crown amounts to 293,685 square feet *in addition* to leases granting only 260,326 square feet. The opposition to the Praya was carried home to the Colonial Office, but Mr. Secretary Labouchere advised that Mr. Dent's objections had been duly considered by Her Majesty's Government but were not held to be valid. I received Lord Stanley's orders, in the apprehension that the finances of the colony might become embarrassed, not to appropriate to the work any of the income of 1858. But in the meanwhile and without the expenditure of a farthing of the public money the Chinese have consented to make and to pay rent for a large portion of the Praya in front of their holdings, and their work is now nearly completed. Amicable arrangements have been come to with most of the holders of marine lots in front of the city, and that portion of the Praya of which the frontage properly belongs to the Government is in process of construction; the immediate question which required solution was the formation of that part of the Praya between the sea and the property leased to Messrs. Dent and Messrs. Lindsay to the west, and which would enable us to communicate from the parade ground with Pedder's wharf (in addition to which a very small portion to the east, on ground claimed by the military authorities, but surrendered by General Straubenzee, after examination, would have to be constructed). The estimate for the sea wall, filling in, and piers proposed to be added for the special convenience of Messrs. Dent and Lindsay, was calculated at less than 14,000*l.* on tenders received.

20. I caused a thorough investigation to be undertaken as to the finances of the colony, and learnt from the Colonial Treasurer that there would be a balance of from 20,000*l.* to 25,000*l.*, at least, applicable to public works when all those legislated for had been completed, and that this sum was lying at interest in the Oriental Bank Corporation, waiting for appropriation.

21. In this satisfactory state of things I called upon the Acting Attorney General to advise me as to the most prudent and conciliatory mode of proceeding consistent with the instructions from home and with the proper maintenance of the rights of the Crown. After much consideration, and as I have reason to know, consultation with other and non-official members of the Legislature, he advised me to introduce an ordinance which he assured me would pass the Legislature, as by it he would secure compensation to all parties who might possibly be injured by the measure, and moreover provide for the surrender of that right belonging to the Crown, of arbitrarily fixing the rental of any land conceded to the lessees, or the amount of damages suffered, by allowing a reference to the valuation of a jury. The Acting Attorney General thought that this proceeding by ordinance whose provisions were all subjected to the revision of the Council, and whose character was even more conciliatory and conceding than I had ever contemplated, was far preferable to my applying simply for a supplementary vote for 14,000*l.*, the sum proposed to be taken in the service of 1859 for the work under consideration. The Surveyor General had also urged objections against my proceeding by asking a vote of money for the proposed work, and carrying it out under the undoubted powers which the leases gave to the Crown. He represented that his own position was a very painful one, having the undivided responsibility of fixing rents and damages,—a responsibility from which he desired to be relieved. I therefore appointed the Surveyor General, the Colonial Treasurer, and the Acting Attorney General to draw up an ordinance, and was advised by them individually and collectively that they were satisfied with the ordinance they had prepared; it gave every security to the finances of the colony, remedied the objections of the Surveyor General, and was satisfactory to the Acting Attorney General in all questions of a legal character.

Mr. Dent (voting however alone) opposed the first reading of the ordinance (of which I have the honour to enclose a copy). Before the second reading my shattered health compelled me to leave for the Philippine Islands, and I found on my return that no progress had been made other than the insertion of the ordinance thrice in the Government Gazette.

The second reading was appointed for the 4th February last. Before going into Council I had some conversation with the Acting Attorney General, who then informed me he was satisfied the ordinance would pass, as he had the assurance of one of the non-official members that it would have his support, and I certainly never doubted that there would be a majority in its favour. The Judge was absent on judicial duty, the Lieutenant Governor from indisposition. Mr. Dent moved the adjournment of the question *sine die;* he was seconded by Mr. Jardine (both these gentlemen have large interests in the question) and supported by Mr. Lyall; these are the three non-official members. The Colonial Secretary voted with Mr. Dent. He stated that he approved of the Praya, but was averse to legislation on the subject, and did not see his way through the financial question. In this no doubt he exercised an independent judgment of which I do not complain, especially as Mr. Mercer was absent when the ordinance was prepared; but the Surveyor General, one of the authors of the ordinance, voted against it, saying he had changed his mind. The chief magistrate also voted against the Government, and the second reading was rejected by 6 to 3. The term of my office approaching, my health much shaken, I have not thought it becoming to exercise the power with which I am invested, and to pass the ordinance, or to use the authority of the Crown under the leases, and carry on the works in spite of opposition; but shall leave to my successor the carrying forward of an undertaking, whose benefits to the colony it is not easy to exaggerate, and for whose progress and completion the surplus revenue, which I am happy to say is still augmenting, will afford ample means.

22. As regards the proceedings of the Legislative Council on the three points adverted to by the Colonial Secretary, viz., the Opium Ordinance, the Markets' Ordinance, and the Chinese Immigrants' Ordinance, I have to observe:—

23. That though the opium monopoly was not so productive as was anticipated in the year 1858, the defalcation is principally attributable to the flight from the colony of so large a number of Chinese, estimated at not less than twenty-five thousand, and this exodus is specially worthy of attention, as showing the immense influence exercised by the mandarins of the continent upon the Chinese population, nor will that influence be broken until the Chinese inhabitants of Hong Kong can dissociate themselves from the power of clanship, and secure their families and relatives who reside in China from the persecution of the authorities. The Chinese contractor was among those who fled, and though his security was compelled to pay the amount for which he had given bond, it was necessary to make concessions to the new contractor at a final loss to the revenue of about 950*l.* This source of income is likely to increase with the increase of the number of the Chinese in the colony. While this Despatch was being written tenders for the Opium Farm have been received, and the highest for the current year is 6,812*l.* 10*s.*, nearly equal to the highest in 1858.

24. As regards the Markets' Ordinance I cannot attribute to its provisions the high price of the necessaries of life. There is abundant field for competition among the owners of shops and stalls, but the powers and the habits of confederation among the Chinese are too strong to be dealt with by legislation. European residents have inherited from the East India Company some of the mischiefs of their monopoly. Their agents were somewhat reckless in expenditure provided for at the public cost. Table allowances were made on the most liberal scale, and enormous prices were paid for all the articles of consumption. A system grew up which has never been wholly superseded. Our compradors (or managers of the household) invariably pocket large profits on domestic expenditure. They come to an understanding with the market people, who also thoroughly understand one another, advancing prices wherever they are able, and resisting their reduction with too successful pertinacity. We are in the hands of our Chinese servants, and few persons (not being Chinese) are to be found in the colony capable of making a bargain with the sellers of commodities. The Market Ordinance, so far as it has operated, certainly diminished the evils of monopoly, and transferred to the Government in the shape of augmented rental a portion at least of the profit which was before in the hands of two or three privileged persons. Some modifications, the result of experience, will, I think, be desirable; but in my judgment they ought not to affect the more substantial provisions of the Markets' Ordinance.

25. The question of emigration grows in importance as the demand for labour increases in the colonies. Hong Kong continues to be the port whence emigrants who can pay

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for their passages and are able to take care of themselves and their own interests prefer to embark, and it will be seen by the Harbour Masters' Report no less than 13,856 left this colony for Australia and California in the past year. I am quite of opinion that the stringency of the Chinese Passenger Act ought to be relaxed as regards emigrants paying their own passage, selecting their own vessels, and able to secure themselves against abductions and fraud. But with reference to hired labourers for the colonies I am thoroughly convinced that the grossest crimes, abominations, and abuses exist in the mode by which they are collected on the continent of China. It is perfectly true that there is in China a superfluity of labour, much misery, and difficulty of obtaining food, and that it would be a blessing both to China and to the countries to which this surplus labour should be transferred if means could be found for its transfer which would give security against the horrible practices of the crimps now engaged in the collection of emigrants, and against whom when discovered not only is public indignation so strong as frequently to expose them to assassination, but there have been several cases in which they have been condemned to death by the ordinary process of Chinese law. Such, however, is the temptation which extravagant premiums and profits offer to the Chinese brokers, and such the passion for money getting among the Chinese, especially when, as in the cases in question, there is more to be gained by craft and cunning than by persevering industry, that I am persuaded nothing but an understanding with the Chinese authorities on the whole subject of emigration, and their co-operation for the prevention and punishment of abuses, and for the protection of the emigrant himself, will ever place the Coolie shipments on a satisfactory basis. I think the period still remote in which the emigration of women can be anticipated. The failure of the plans which were some time ago adopted in the Philippine Islands, adjacent as they are, and covered with Chinamen, many of whom are rich and influential, and would lend them cordial aid in the introduction of their wives and families, show how little is to be hoped for in that respect. In the commercial capital of Manila (Binondo) I found by the census that there was only one Chinawoman and seven female children amidst about six thousand Chinamen. It was estimated a few years ago that Hong Kong would in 1858 be able to furnish 2,500 females to be married to Chinese Catholic converts in the Philippines. I have no reason to believe that a single one has been shipped for the purpose.

26. And if I may here be allowed an observation on the more general question, I have come to the conclusion that it is impossible *imported labour* should in the long run compete with the free labour of Eastern tropical countries, whose powers of production are now beginning to develop themselves. How should the West Indies, with no advantage of soil or climate, and to whom the cost of the labourer must be heavy, whether from the charge of introducing him or the value of his labour when introduced, how should they stand the rivalry of regions where every natural advantage is associated with the moderate pay and moderate profits of the native cultivator? In the countries I have visited, such as Siam, the Netherland, and the Spanish Eastern Archipelago, there are productive capabilities which, whenever they are assisted by capital and improved machinery, must place the West Indian Colonies at an immense disadvantage. In the course of a short time the agricultural element in China will probably receive a vast development. In two years, and with small advance in prices, China was able to fill the vacuum in the silk markets produced by the failure of the French and Italian crops, and to send to Europe in a single season for a value of nearly 10,000,000*l.* sterling of raw silk. I believe her cotton-producing power to be enormous, and am surprised that more attention has not been given to China in the discussions which have often looked for a supply of this all-important raw material to regions whence only disappointment will come. The southern provinces of China have also great aptitudes for sugar production. I hope I may be excused this seeming digression.

27. I concur with the views of the Colonial Secretary as to the Legislative Council, and think its action must be more limited and defined. Since the arrival of Mr. Chisholm Anstey in the colony the character of the Council has undergone a marked change. Instead of a consultative body called in to assist the Government in the matters submitted to it by the Government, Mr. Anstey declared that he took his seat as an independent legislator, and not as a servant of the Crown, and that he was there, if he thought fit, to criticize and oppose the views of the executive. It has happened that when an ordinance has been prepared by Mr. Anstey, and when not a word of previous objection has been breathed by him in his official capacity, he has taken occasion to attack both Government and ordinance, and to do his best to lower the character and credit of the Government in the public opinion by his opposition. I have even known him in Council repudiate the authority of the Superior Law Officers of the

Crown when their opinions had been formally conveyed to the Government. Elaborate speeches were frequently made to be reproduced in the scurrilous newspapers of the colony; nor was Mr. Anstey's example without influence on other official members, for the Chief Magistrate generally followed in Mr. Anstey's footsteps, and on more than one occasion (and without the slightest previous communication) vituperated the Government in strong terms. I have referred to the proceedings of the Surveyor General in reference to the Bowring Praya Ordinance, in which, without any previous advice to me, he followed the example of Mr. Anstey, and voted against the very ordinance he had prepared and recommended. It appears to me absolutely necessary that the powers of the Legislative Council should be better understood, and that the disposition so strongly manifested to encroach upon the functions of the executive should be checked by some authoritative opinion of Her Majesty's Government, on which subject I beg to refer specially to my despatch, No. 116, of 30th August 1858, enclosing Dr. Bridges' views of the matter. HONG KONG.

28. The appointment of an Auditor General in the colony as a distinct officer has undoubtedly been of great benefit, and Mr. Rennie has discharged his duties with thorough efficiency; but as the Auditor General is equally the servant of the diplomatic and colonial departments, receiving half of his salary from each, some new arrangement will be necessitated by the removal of the Superintendency from Hong Kong. There will be an advantage to the colony from the absolute separation of the colonial from the diplomatic and consular accounts, and no doubt some such arrangement will have to be made by Her Majesty's Treasury.

29. I must mention here that two other colonial officers receive pay from the funds voted by Parliament to the Superintendency, namely, the Attorney General, who has 250*l.* a year for his services as adviser to the Chief Superintendent, and 200*l.* to the Surveyor General for his trouble in revising estimates, preparing plans, or rendering other services connected with his department in the consular ports. This want will have to be provided for, I imagine, independently of the Colonial Surveyor.

30. Provision will have to be made for the loss of the services of gentlemen of the Commissariat who have been employed by the Colonial Treasurer. Within a few days we have had notice that two of these gentlemen are about to leave.

31. It is undoubtedly desirable that some additional accommodation should be provided for the Harbour Master, but the plan suggested two years ago appeared to me, on the representations of the Acting Surveyor General, Mr. Walker, so objectionable, and necessitated so large a sacrifice of valuable Government property, that I directed the stoppage of the works, and think the subject must be reconsidered in connection with the Praya; meanwhile, though the offices of the Harbour Master are not in all respects what could be wished, they are very tolerably convenient, and the situation in all respects commodious.

32. The Colonial Secretary refers to the importance of obtaining a greater supply of water for the city. I agree with him that it is a very useful object, but I do not think the ordinary revenue of the colony can be properly or judiciously applied in furnishing capital for construction of water-works. Such undertaking are not ordinarily, nor can they in my judgment be wisely, entered upon from the yearly public revenues. If a joint stock company cannot be formed—respecting which there may be some doubt,—the means might be furnished by the issue of bonds, whose interest would be secured by a water rate. There would be some advantage in the existence of such securities as capital is often overflowing here, and it is sometimes difficult to invest it at even 5 or 6 per cent. interest. The large houses have refused to receive deposits on such terms. It is certainly no obligation of the Government to furnish individuals with water any more than any other necessary of life, and, as undertakings such as water companies must partake of the character of commercial speculations and involve great responsibilities, I am strongly of opinion that our annual income is not fairly applicable to such speculations. I am quite willing that the Government should give appropriate facilities for an important public object, but the objections to a Government building Sailors' Homes, or engaging the ordinary sources of revenue in supplying the pecuniary means for costly undertakings of uncertain result are, in my mind, unanswerable. It is said we have recognised the principle in establishing a lighting rate, but there is no analogy. No great outlay of capital is involved in the erection of lamp-posts and the providing lamps. It is a far different question when a Government undertakes to provide water for the inhabitants of a large city, that undertaking implies a large expenditure of capital. Mr. Cleverly's estimate of outlay is 25,000*l.*, but after this expenditure there may be difficulty in collecting a water rate from the Chinese population, who have been in the habit of supplying themselves from the tanks or the multitudinous streams in the

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colony. There is another great objection. It has been openly avowed by some of the opponents of the Praya, that it is their purpose "to swamp" the surplus revenue by devoting it to other and hitherto unauthorized public works, and water-works have been prominently put forward for this very object. I doubt not that the question will be maturely considered by my successor, and that he will take care no sinister private interest shall prevail over or defeat a great public good. One of the peculiar difficulties against which this Government has to struggle is the enormous influence wielded by the great and opulent commercial houses, against whose power and in opposition to whose personal views it is hard to contend.

33. The provisional manner in which the place of Colonial Chaplain has been frequently but necessarily filled has been a subject of just complaint from the Bishop. I hope it will be obviated in future. I concur in the deserved compliments which the Colonial Secretary pays to the value of Mr. Beach's services during the absence of Mr. Irwin.

34. The outward appearance, discipline, and general efficiency of the police have greatly improved during the past year; and the complaints under this head which formerly were frequently addressed to the Government are now much diminished in number. Considering the indifferent materials from which the selection must necessarily be made, the present state of the corps is satisfactory and creditable to Mr. May.

35. I have referred elsewhere to the services of Mr. Caldwell; they have been so many and great, and he has been so cruelly and unjustly persecuted, that I should be glad if some mark of the favourable opinion of Her Majesty's Government, as to the value of those services, were conferred upon him; and I beg to call to your attention the honourable testimony borne to his deservings in a Despatch from the Admiral, on leaving this station, copy of which is forwarded by this mail. Mr. Caldwell has several times intimated to me his wish to quit the public service in the colony, his reputation having been so severely attacked and his influence damaged by Mr. Anstey; these attacks still finding echoes in our infamous public press. I cannot but say that the loss of Mr. Caldwell would be irreparable. I have used my personal solicitations to detain him here.

36. I have, in an earlier part of this report, referred to the question of the removal of the gaol, concurring with the opinion of the Colonial Secretary, that the present site should not be abandoned. There will be the means of enlargement, and to some extent of classification, and though there is much to be desired in the way of change, there have been notable improvements in gaol managements during the last two years to which I can bear personal testimony.

37. The Acting Colonial Surgeon's Report makes suggestions to which becoming attention will no doubt be paid. He is quite right in stating that the registers of deaths, and the same may be said of births and marriages, are in an unsatisfactory state. I had some conversation with the Bishop on the subject, and he assured me he was by no means contented with the existing state of things, and the attention of Mr. Anstey, while Attorney General, was called to the matter. I do not know whether the returns kept by ministers of the Church of England, either in this colony or in China, are sent to the Registrar General in London, as the Consular Records are. I believe not; nor in the case of catholic or dissenting registers does any proper machinery exist, as far as I am aware, for reporting the statistics of birth, marriages, and mortality, to the metropolis. A question was sometime ago submitted to the law authorities at home, as to the validity of protestant marriages celebrated at Macao; the question was left in so uncertain a state that many of Her Majesty's subjects, who had been married at Macao, have thought it prudent to be re-married in Hong Kong. As the Legislative Council of Hong Kong is charged with law-making for British subjects in China, and as no doubt the late treaties will necessitate the transfer of that power to some other authority, I hope steps will be taken to secure accurate records from the clergy of the Church of England in the various ports of China, which probably the Bishop of Victoria would not be unwilling to transmit to the proper authorities in England.

38. It may be stated, notwithstanding the mortality of the past year, which I deem exceptional, that there is a progressive melioration in the sanitary state of the colony. Chinese habits are difficult to change or even to modify, but there is no comparison between the general cleanliness of Hong Kong and that of any Chinese city which I have ever visited. I would add, that in Eastern regions generally there are few cities so free from nuisances in the parts occupied by the native population. Comparisons between the well-governed towns of Great Britain and the crowded parts of Oriental regions are scarcely just to those who have immense difficulties to overcome; but the present state of Hong Kong may be advantageously contrasted with that of many localities as they existed in England a generation or two ago.

39. The progress of education has been satisfactory. We owe much to the zeal and aptitude of Mr. Lobscheid, the school inspector. The Government has given every encouragement to public instruction, and instead of 915*l.* voted for the service of 1858, has allotted 1,500*l.* for the present year.

40. I have so often expressed an opinion as to the inconvenience and absurdity of making the sovereign the standard of exchange in a country where gold is no legal tender, and of maintaining an accountancy in pounds sterling and pence in a colony where not a merchant, shopkeeper, or individual has any transaction except in dollars and cents, that it would be wearisome and intrusive to repeat what I have so urgently put forward. As regards the diplomatic service now provided for by the colonial chest, the removal of the Superintendency from Hong Kong will necessitate a change of system, and after the strong representations that have been made to the Government, I trust the colony will be allowed to keep its accounts, as everybody but the Commissariat and the Government keeps them, in the only currency that is recognized by the usages of the place.

41. I am informed that it is intended to enlarge the dimensions of the dock at Aberdeen, and that it will be competent to receive the largest frigates which come to these waters. The works are constructed of granite and admirably efficient.

42. The elevation of the water springs at Pokfoolum being considerably above that of Victoria, the supply of water abundant, and the distance not more than four miles, I am of opinion with the Colonial Secretary, that this locality presents many advantages for furnishing water for the city; but as I have before reverted to the subject in this report, I would add that I cannot come to a satisfactory conclusion in the existing divergence of opinion, as to the course best to be pursued. I have only to recommend a thorough investigation of the matter. Meanwhile, I am happy to say that the number of fire engines in the colony belonging to Europeans and Chinese is considerable, and that a little improvement in the organization of the service attending in cases of fire, would greatly add to the public security. No part of the city is far from the sea, and this advantage ought to be made more available than it has hitherto been.

43. My views as to the desirableness of adding the small peninsula opposite Hong Kong to the colony, it will have been seen, are in perfect accordance with Mr. Mercer's. It will not, I fear, be so easy now to negotiate for its transfer as it would have been some months ago when we obtained land for the Wampoa consulate; but I am strongly of opinion the sooner the question is discussed with the Chinese authorities the greater is the chance of a favourable solution.

44. I need not go over the ground pre-occupied by Mr. Mercer in reference to the effect which the extension of trade with China will have upon the colony of Hong Kong. I believe that extension will add to its prosperity as a commercial depôt, and to its value as a territorial possession. Never had a colony to contend against a greater amount of prejudice, ignorance, and misrepresentation. If having "a bad name" could have ruined it its perdition was inevitable, but who can withstand the testimony of facts and figures—facts *in* figures I might say. Hong Kong is the seat and the centre, the directing and controlling place, round which the vast commerce of the China seas is gathered. Here are the heads of the great houses, the merchant princes of the east; from hence the instructions emanate which govern the proceedings of all the ports in China. Here are the principal banking establishments; here may be said to be the intelligence and the concentrated wealth of the largest commercial establishments in the Oriental world. If Hong Kong be but a "barren and unhealthy rock," it has directed millions upon millions to the Imperial and Indian treasuries, through immense disadvantages, contrarieties, and an "unworthy reputation;" it has made its way to a commercial position, of which a few years ago nobody dreamed. On every side fine houses are rising, hills are being levelled, valleys filled, ground recovered from the sea. I have had occasion to hear the opinion of almost every foreign traveller who for years has visited the colony; and while they have looked on the shipping, traversed the streets, and witnessed the general activity of the population, I have seldom heard anything but expressions of wonder and admiration, with the frequent addition, "You, indeed, know how to colonize!" How few harbours in the world can boast as Hong Kong can of an average daily entrance of 2,000 tons of mercantile shipping. In how few has there been so rapid an increase of foreign population, seeking the protection of our laws and the participation in our commerce! Such progress, such prosperity, such prospects, are the best answer to all misrepresentations, whatever be their origin, their motive, or their circulation.

45. The far greater question, as to the influence which may hereafter result from the Russian movements down the Amoor, their settlements on the coast of Tartary, their position at the Court of Peking would open the field to far graver considerations

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than I can here venture to discuss; nor ought the vast extension of the territory of the United States and the wonderful augmentation of the population and commerce in North-western America to be lost sight of in anticipating and providing against future contingencies.

46. I conclude with the consciousness that in surrendering the important trust confided to me by Her Gracious Majesty, after trials and perils of no common character, neither the public interests nor the honour of the Crown have suffered while confided to my keeping, and in the humble hope that such will be the view of Her Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. Sir E. Bulwer Lytton, Bart. M.P., &c. &c.

(Signed) JOHN BOWRING.

Encl. 1. in No. 18.

Enclosure 1. in No. 18.

REPORT OF THE COLONIAL SECRETARY ON THE BLUE BOOK FOR 1858.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Victoria, Hong Kong, 8th March 1859.

SIR,

THE last Return having this day reached me, I am enabled to lay before your Excellency the Blue Book of Hong Kong for the year 1858.

2. I must remind your Excellency that I was absent on leave from the colony until the end of November, and, consequently, have not had an oppurtunity of personally watching the progress of events during the year in question.

3. I base my remarks, therefore, on the returns themselves, my own lengthened experience of Hong Kong, and such information as I have obtained in casual conversations with Mr. Bridges, who, during my absence in England, discharged so efficiently the duties of my department.

4. It will be seen that the revenue for 1858 is 62,476*l.* 9*s.* 8¼*d.*, being a net increase of 3,634*l.* 7*s.* 1¼*d.* over that for the previous year, while the expenditure in 1858 has been 62,979*l.* 8*s.* 1¾*d.*, or 2,518*l.* 11*s.* 5¼*d.* less than in 1857. This result is so far satisfactory on both sides of the account.

5. Of the public works I am happy to say that the orders of the Secretary of State are being now carried out, that tenders have been invited for extending the gaol, and that at the end of the current month a new and commodious civil hospital will be provided.

6. The principal points in the legislation of the year are the regulation of the sale of opium by Ordinance No. 2, the organization of a new market system under Ordinance No. 9, and the control of vessels carrying Chinese emigrants by Ordinance No. 13.

7. The total number of ordinances passed during the year is 15, of which, though none have been disallowed, only 10 have as yet received the confirmation of Her Majesty.

8. The Market Ordinance it will, I think, be necessary to revise, as there are defects in the working of it, and I may remark, that if it was intended to cheapen provisions, it has failed in its object, for all the necessaries of life are at ruinous prices. I hope that this subject will again receive the attention of the Legislature.

9. The Legislative Council has been remodelled, and will, I have no doubt, prove a most useful body; but I fear that it oversteps its proper functions at times, occupying itself with matters having no concern with legislation, and trenching on the powers of the executive. This, if unchecked, will sooner or later be found a serious evil.

10. Coming in succession to the Civil Department, I have first to note the satisfactory measure by which a severance was effected between the two offices of Colonial Secretary and Auditor General, for it was simply impossible that one person could conduct with efficiency the duties of both.

11. The Colonial Treasury has been carried on with aid from the Commissariat, but as this was never intended as a permanent arrangement, I think it right to suggest to your Excellency the necessity of putting that department on a proper footing.

12. The Harbour Master is much in want of suitable accommodation for his department, and I strougly advise the completion of the building commenced for this service over two years ago.

13. In noticing the recent return of the Colonial Chaplain, I take the opportunity of mentioning that among the community I hear but one opinion of the very satisfactory way in which the duties of that office have been discharged during Mr. Irwin's absence, by the Rev. Mr. Beach.

14. The Police of the colony is in better form than I have ever seen it, and considering what I learn to have been the troubled and hazardous condition of the colony during certain periods of the past year, I look upon Messrs. May and Caldwell as entitled to great credit for the activity and zeal shown by them in their respective posts.

15. The gaol has, I have already said, been commenced upon for extension, and I wish to state my objection to the scheme at one time proposed, whereby a second gaol was to be built elsewhere.

16. This measure would entail a double establishment and an increased expenditure, while it is most important to bear in mind the fact that the present site is the healthiest in the island, a matter of no little consequence when a crowded gaol is the subject of our consideration.

17. In due time the enlargement of the gaol will render possible the proper classification of prisoners.

18. The Registrar General has given 75,003 as the population of the island; but I am greatly inclined to question the accuracy of this return, it is less than last year's by some 1,600, and only about 4,000 over that for 1856. It is most evident to me that the crowds in the houses and streets are far more numerous than I have ever yet seen them at any period since the census was first taken.

19. The outlying villages may have diminished in population, for the Colonial Surgeon's Report makes mention of an estimated number of 1,400 falling victims to cholera in Aberdeen alone, but as the main contributor to the Census Return is the city of Victoria, I look to the districts of this city for

verification of my own opinion, and in this opinion, if I mistake not, I am supported by you Excellency.

20. Appended to the Registrar General's Returns will be found 1st, the Military Mortality for the year, and 2ndly, the Colonial Surgeon's Report.

21. As regards the mortality in the garrison, though 6.52 per cent. is an increase on 5.60 of the preceding year, yet keeping in view the severe summer and the hard work endured by the soldiery during 1858, it does not show any great cause for anxiety, for the per-centage was 4.62 in a year of almost perfect quietude (1856), and the present slightly increased rate falls into insignificance before the 17.89 per cent. of 1850, or the still more disastrous times, now long past, of 1843 and 1844, in which latter year the mortality was over 35 per cent.

22. The death of Dr. Harland, a serious public loss, occurred during the year; he is the fourth colonial surgeon whom I have seen fall a victim to the climate.

23. His temporary successor has given a very creditable report considering his short tenure of office.

24. The statistics suggested by Dr. Chaldecott might, I imagine, be procured, and the point is one worth consideration, but it must not be inferred from Dr. Chaldecott's words that no register of deaths is preserved.

25. There might be some difficulty in ascertaining particulars of disease, but record is made of all deaths occurring amongst the European community.

26. Dr. Chaldecott mentions two diseases as of novel appearance in the colony, and a knowledge of Hong Kong for nearly 15 years enables me to confirm his statement, that cholera and hydrophobia were never known here before.

27. Of the latter malady, the Acting Colonial Surgeon says little beyond registering the fact of its appearance, and I presume he is right in attributing cholera to the filthy state of the native parts of the town.

28. This is a point which has long engaged the attention of the Government, and though our efforts have been sometimes unworthily opposed, and sometimes even frustrated, I perceive much improvement in the general cleanliness of Victoria.

29. Still in a crowded city like this, with an oriental population, it is vain to expect freedom from nuisances such as are complained of.

30. The various suggestions of the Acting Colonial Surgeon will of course receive due consideration, and I observe nothing more in his report requiring special observation.

31. This report, however, establishes the fact which I have never heard disputed that the past summer has been unusually unhealthy.

32. Your Excellency will be happy to see that education has made some progress in the Chinese community, and considerable interest is attached to the Report of the Education Committee, which, by your Excellency's direction has been already published in the Government Gazette for general information.

33. On the subject of the specie circulation of the colony, the members of the Executive Council have recently given their individual opinions, and these are now before the Secretary of State for the colonies.

34. Concerning imports and exports I have but to repeat what has been stated in former years, that the judicious absence of a Custom House renders it impossible to give a return of these.

35. But a reference to the Harbour Master's Tables is very satisfactory, showing an increase in the tonnage arrived in port of 175,413 tons.

36. Of the gaol I have already spoken, and in the Blue Book will be found the fullest particulars connected with the conduct of it.

37. It remains for me to notice the dock in course of erection by Mr. Lamont at Aberdeen, a most important work, and one that will have much influence on the future of the colony. It will not, I believe, be opened for use before the next autumn, but when ready it will prove of great service to Her Majesty's navy, and the mercantile shipping resorting to the port.

38. When the road between Victoria and Aberdeen shall have been widened and completed, I calculate upon a rise in the value of portions of the land on either side, especially in the neighbourhood of Pokfoolum, where building is now commenced on one or more of the farm lots sold there in June 1856.

39. I may here mention one public work of the very highest consequence which is under consideration—the water-works. The paucity of hill streams on this side of the island renders the procural of a sufficient water supply for the city a matter of extreme difficulty. In the winter or dry season this want is severely felt by all classes of the community, and it is in this very season that conflagrations occur among the Chinese houses, when water in readiness and abundance is a demand of necessity.

40. In my opinion the best plan is to lead the water from Pokfoolum, round the side of the hill, attracting the smaller rivulets in the course; but I make this suggestion with diffidence, as I know that professional engineers are not agreed as to the proper mode to be adopted.

41. An early decision must be come to, as this is the most important work that presses on the attention of the Government.

42. I cannot refrain from bringing to notice the trouble, inconvenience, and even danger that arises from the growth of a village at Teem-cha-tsoy, on the Kowloong shore. It has been raised by pirates, resetters, and vagabonds of every kind; and being within ten minutes sail of Victoria, it affords an easy refuge to criminals wishing to fly from justice.

43. It is of course on Chinese territory, but the Kowloong mandarin exercises no jurisdiction over it, and the evil will continue until a part of the Kowloong Peninsula shall become a dependency of this colony, a measure I would strongly advocate, and about which I cannot foresee much difficulty.

44. I may point out in support of this suggestion, that the Kowloong shore forms the northern side of Hong Kong harbour, and it may be made a question with foreign nations whether a foreign vessel anchored on that side of the harbour is amenable to the laws of this colony.

HONG KONG.

45. And now, sir, in concluding this report, I hope I am not going beyond my duty in making some remarks on the political position of Hong Kong, and the erroneous notions concerning it, that I observe sedulously presented to the public at home.

46. In an article in the "Times" newspaper (17th December 1858) are to be found misrepresentations which the most ordinary local knowledge is sufficient to correct.

47. We are told that "Hong Kong feels itself humiliated and displaced by the opening up of China," and that "all the success, whether of arms or of diplomacy, which is so valuable to the rest of the "world, and so important to the great interests of humanity, is rather carped at than celebrated," here. It is further stated that the cause is to be traced to the "natural tendency" of the Hong Kong merchants "towards their own interests."

48. Now this proposition is entirely incorrect, and I presume it to be founded, if it have any foundation, on the worthless remarks of the colonial newspapers, to which little regard, save for party purposes, is ever given by any one.

49. But the allegation of the cause is based on a thorough misconception of the character and position of the Hong Kong merchants. The writer evidently assumes that the merchants here resident have no connection with the ports of China or beyond the colony, whereas this may be said to a certain extent only of the storekeeping and small trading interests.

50. It is a fact that of all the leading firms in China there is hardly one that for the last few years has not found it necessary to have at least its agency in this place, and at the present moment a large majority of the principal houses have established here their head quarters, and from this port all their commercial operations with China and elsewhere are regulated and directed.

51. The head partners of the houses reside in Hong Kong, and their subordinates carry on the business at Shanghai and the other ports under instructions from this centre; in like manner the banks have their chief manager here, and their sub-branches elsewhere on the coast.

52. Surely if in a distant part of his estate a landed proprietor shall discover a valuable mine, the worth of his mansion house is not diminished but increased thereby; and as he must have some position from which to manage the affairs of his whole property, he will hardly think it expedient to abandon his house, ready made to his hand, and fix his abode in a locality, which for purposes of general management is, to say the least, not a whit more convenient.

53. If a new colony were founded by us in these seas (and of this there is no rumour, and, I may add, for it no necessity), it might in time be a greater place than an "insalubrious rock" like Hong Kong; but it is absurd to say that a British colony with British institutions situated on the seaboard of China is not of more assistance to "the policy of civilization" and the highest interests of commerce than any single port in the China waters, the mercantile transactions with which, however extensive they may be, the chief foreign merchants have decided to conduct from the old established rendezvous and starting point of postal communication.

54. As to the assertion that "Hong Kong has grown into whatever importance it may at present "possess from its proximity to the single privileged port of Canton," the truth lies precisely in the contrary direction, and any China merchant knows that the less trade thrives in Canton, the more will it prosper here. Canton's difficulty was Hong Kong's opportunity, and on the burning of the factories in November 1856, and the consequent withdrawal of the foreign merchants from that port, a trade sprung up in this harbour, which has continued ever since, but was altogether unknown, so long as Canton flourished.

55. I am afraid that the only true blot hit by the writer to whom I am referring lies in our "half-a-dozen newspapers," for it is not to be denied that the senseless and shameless scurrility of the Hong Kong press is a reproach to the colony, and a discredit to the community who encourage it by their support, though they may be free from the imputation of directly inciting it by their approval.

56. I do not imagine that the political importance of Hong Kong in another aspect has escaped the notice of Her Majesty's Government; but, while on the subject, I may say a few words on the following point:—The Russians have now firmly established their colonial settlements at the mouth of the Amoor River and elsewhere in Tartary. In due time a naval depôt, and doubtless on a large scale, will be found there. This will exercise its influence all along the coast of China.

57. How shall such influence be counteracted? It has been answered that the new colony of British Columbia has been fostered with this view; but though the prestige of that settlement may be felt on the Eastern waters of the North Pacific, it will be unknown on the Asiatic side; and even could it be recognized there, it must be borne in mind that British Columbia is 5,000 miles from the nearest station of the great China trade, while Hong Kong, with its long organized naval yard; and its convenient dock, is within easy distance of most of the Chinese ports, and not more than 1,000 miles from the port furthest north, and nearest the Amoor, which is again equally distant from the same port, and further than Hong Kong from the others.

58. I hold it then for certain, that we must have and retain a colony on the China coast; we have one and there is no occasion for another; many considerations point to the inexpediency of another; let us then make the most of what we have, and not become chargeable with the folly of crying down the utility or under-rating the importance of Hongkong on the groundless supposition that the colony will be "displaced by the opening up of China," or the still more fanciful idea that it will be found "inimical to the policy of civilization."

59. I have only to add that the remarks I have just offered to your Excellency's notice are made in entire ignorance of the intentions of the Secretary of State for the colonies with regard to Hong Kong and its future government, which will probably be known to us in the course of the ensuing month.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. T. MERCER,
Colonial Secretary.

His Excellency Sir John Bowring,
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure 2. in No. 18.

HONG KONG.

THE COLONIAL SURGEON'S REPORT FOR 1858.

Civil Hospital, Victoria, 3rd March 1859. No. 18.

THE universally lamented and untimely death of my friend, the late Colonial Surgeon, has imposed upon me the duty of making this report, a duty which will be but very imperfeetly fulfilled on account of the short period I have held the office, and in consequence of my time having been so fully occupied, in the practice of my profession and other duties.

I would call the attention of the Government to the fact, that one most important source of information which would make the Colonial Surgeon's Report of much more value that it is at present, is entirely wanting to him. There is no proper registration of deaths in this colony, and therefore when it is asked what per-centage of the inhabitants of this island die from climatic diseases, and what form do these diseases assume, only a general and imperfect answer can be given. And yet it is of great importance that this answer should be as perfect and comprehensive as possible, for it is daily more and more satisfactorily proved that a very great proportion of the diseases to which men fell victims are owing to causes which are entirely preventable by human means, and which only need to be made evident in order that they may be got rid of.

I would submit that it is highly desirable, and at the same time very feasible, that the same system of registration of deaths should be established here as is in use in England, and that interment of the body should not be allowed to take place until the sexton has received a proper form of certificate of death, filled up and signed by the medical attendant of the deceased.

Of course this should not be insisted upon in the case of the Chinese, nor perhaps in that of the Portuguese inhabitants of the colony, as all the former and many of the latter are not attended by duly qualified medical men, and those who do attend them would not be able to fill up the certificates in a satisfactory manner.

Were the registration of the causes of death properly carried out, we should in a few years be in possession of a body of statistics which might prove of the greatest value.

That the sanitary condition of this colony stands in great need of improvement has been more than once pointed out in previous Colonial Surgeons' Reports; but I am moved to insist upon this necessity the more pressingly in the present report, in consequence of the colony having been visited during the year by one of the most terrible of those "preventable diseases," whose ravages, if not entirely owing to, are at least most fearfully aggravated and extended by neglect of proper drainage and cleanliness, the evil results of which must act with double force in a community so crowded together as that of Victoria, and in a climate so favourable to the decomposition of animal and vegetable products.

I am happy to learn that steps are to be taken to remedy the defects at present existing.

Previously to last autumn, no well authenticated case of cholera was recorded to have happened in Hong Kong, and so confident were the medical practitioners of the immunity of the place, that it was at first thought by them that the cases of the disease at first reported were in fact merely severe cases of diarrhœa. But it soon became only too evident that the disease amongst us was the true Asiatic cholera, for no single symptom was wanting, and it destroyed its victims in an equally short space of time.

As was to be predicted of it, the disease first attacked the worst lodged and worst fed part of the community, the Chinese, then some Indian servants, and then the European seamen both on shore and afloat, and at the same time some of the soldiers of the garrison and the prisoners in the gaol. Finally, in three cases it attacked the higher class of European inhabitants of the colony, and in one of these cases proved fatal.

At the same time the Portuguese in Macao suffered severely from the disease, and cases occurred in the forces at Canton and in some of the men-of-war in the river.

The disease afterwards visited the east coast, reached Shanghae, and it is also reported raged with great virulence over a great part of the Japanese empire.

What per-centage of the Chinese population of Hong Kong was attacked by the disease, and what proportion of those attacked died, it has been impossible to ascertain. It is well known, however, that a very considerable number were carried off by it. For instance, it was reported that as many as 1,400 were destroyed by the disease at Aberdeen.

The late Colonial Surgeon attempted to procure information about the disease from the Chinese medical practitioners of the place, and many reports were sent in to him; but these, except that they prove that the disease was wide spread, are comparatively valueless. Some boast of having saved two-thirds and others three-fourths of their patients; but in these numbers most probably many cases of the simple diarrhœa which accompanies cholera, and is supposed to be its first stage, was doubtless included.

The remedies they advise for it are numerous, but they are all derived from the vegetable kingdom, and not likely to prove beneficial.

Their disquisitions as to the nature and cause of the disease are as vague and unsatisfactory as those of their European brethren.

The following is an approximate estimate of the number of cases of cholera which occurred among the white population afloat and ashore:—

CASES OF CHOLERA ASIATIC, OCCURRING IN VICTORIA IN 1858.

Localities.	Cases.	Deaths.
Military Hospital	29	14
Naval Hospital	7	3
Civil Hospital	13	5
Gaol	3	2
Seamen's Hospital, St. Francis' Hospital, and private patients	23	10
Total	75	34

Mortality, 45.33.

HONG KONG.

With regard to the beneficial effects of treatment in these cases much cannot be said. One practice which was adopted by the late Colonial Surgeon, and which in several cases appeared to have a most marked and decided beneficial effect, was the early application of the solid nitrate of silver, so as to make a circular blister about four inches in diameter over the pit of the stomach.

In the cases which came under my observation, this plan, even when adopted at a too advanced period of the disease, never failed to check the vomiting and to prolong life, though it did not always succeed in saving it. I consider the treatment well worthy of a more extended trial.

Hydrophobia, another disease heretofore unknown in the colony, also made its appearance during the past year. In one case the attack came on six weeks to a day after the infliction of the bite, and proved fatal in a few hours. Another man, who was bitten by the same dog, fell a victim to the disease in the commencement of the present year, the first symptom showing itself ten months after the bite. In this instance an attempt at suicide was made, which shortened the patient's sufferings by a few hours.

The climatic diseases usually prevalent in the colony were of their ordinary character, with the exception of fever, which was somewhat more prevalent than usual, and manifested a tendency in many cases to put on a typhoid form, with imperfect intermissions.

In the autumn of the year a number of cases of phagedaenic ulcers of the leg and foot, of a most obstinate and formidable character, occurred amongst the Chinese prisoners in the gaol, and in two or three instances also attacked the Europeans.

An extensive trial of the prophylactic virtue of quinine wine (a dose being given the first thing every morning), was made in the garrison at Canton, and the reports of the different medical officers bore evidence to its very great utility and benefit.

I would strongly recommend that a similar plan be adopted with those constables who are sent to the out-lying stations on the island, such as Aberdeen, Stanley, Sow-ke-wan, and Siwan, for I have noted, not only since I have been Acting Colonial Surgeon, but also in former years, that the worst and most obstinate cases of fever and dysentery arise among the men placed at these out stations; and I believe it to be a fact that, if their stay be at all prolonged at either of these stations, scarcely one escapes altogether the ill effects of the malaria.

These cases of disease might, I believe, be almost entirely avoided if the Superintendent of Police were to insist that the constables stationed at these places should take every morning a dose, either of quinine mixture or of quinine wine.

The experiment of establishing a sanatarium on Victoria Peak, recommended some years ago by the late Dr. Morrison, then Colonial Surgeon, has again been agitated during the past year, and, I believe, stands a fair chance of being put to the proof, both by the military authorities and by private enterprise. I believe that the difference of temperature would tell very favourably in many of the diseases which occur here.

I shall conclude this report with the following Statistical Tables having reference to the Gaol, the Civil Hospital, the Seamen's Hospital, the Police Force, and the state of the weather during the year:—

VICTORIA GAOL.

The following Table shows the Number of Cases and Mortality under each Disease during the Year 1858 :—

Disease.	Cases.	Deaths.	Disease.	Cases.	Deaths.
Abcess	2	—	Brought over	91	18
Amentia	1	—	Icterus	1	—
Berri Berri	16	9	Hernia	1	1
Bronchitis	3	—	Ophthalmia	2	—
Cholera	3	2	Orchitis	2	—
Colica	2	—	Phagedænic Ulcers	27	2
Constipatio	5	—	Phthisis	1	—
Contusio	2	—	Pneumonia	3	2
Diarrhœa	15	1	Rheumatism	11	—
Dysentery	7	2	Syphilis, primary	22	—
Epilepsy	1	—	Syphilis, secondary	4	—
Febris Intermittens	22	3	Scabies	4	—
Febris Remittens	6	—	Wounds, gunshot	2	—
Hæmatemesis	1	1	Wounds, incised	1	—
Hæmorrhoids	1	—	Dyspepsia	1	—
Hæmoptysis	4	—			
Carried over	91	18	Total	163	23

Mortality, 13.69.

Table showing Rate of Sickness and Mortality in the Victoria Gaol, during the Year 1858 :—

Average Strength.	Total Sick.	Total Deaths.	Rate of Sickness.	Rate of Mortality.
266	163	23	61.27 per cent.	8.64

THE CIVIL HOSPITAL.

The following Table shows the Number of Cases and the Mortality under each Disease during the Year 1858:—

Disease.	Cases.	Deaths.	Disease.	Cases.	Deaths.
Abscess	4	—	Brought forward	319	70
Amputations	2	—	Hepatitis	1	—
Anasarca	6	2	Hæmoptysis	2	—
Apoplexia	1	1	Hæmorrhoids	1	—
Ascites	2	2	Heart disease	1	—
Bronchitis	3	1	Icterus	1	—
Burns	5	—	Lapra	1	—
Cholera Asiatica	14	6	Mania	1	—
Colica	21	—	Orchitis	2	—
Constipatio	15	—	Phthisis	1	—
Contusio	11	—	Pneumonia	1	—
Delirium tremens	6	3	Psora	4	—
Diarrhœa	32	6	Rheumatism	29	—
Diplopia	1	—	Stricture of Urethra	2	1
Dysenteria	49	23	Syphilis, primary	32	1
Dyspepsia	1	—	Syphilis, secondary	8	3
Febris intermittens	108	21	Ulcers	22	1
Febris remittens	22	5	Vertigo	1	—
Fistula in Ano	1	—	Variola	5	2
Fractura	3	—	Wounds, gunshot	9	2
Gonorrhœa	11	—	Wounds, incised	7	—
Granular conjunctiva	1	—			
Carried over	319	70	Total	450	80

Mortality, 17.88 per cent.

The apparently heavy mortality in this hospital is owing to the number of deaths entered under the heads of "Dysentery," and "Intermittent and Remittent Fever," and "Diarrhœa." A very large majority of the fatal cases under these heads were destitute Chinese and Indians, who had been picked up by the police in a moribund condition, and were only brought up to the hospital to die.

THE SEAMEN'S HOSPITAL.

The following Table shows the Number of Cases and Mortality under each Disease during the Year 1858:—

Disease.	Cases.	Deaths.	Disease.	Cases.	Deaths.
Amputation	1	—	Brought forward	165	39
Berri Berri	1	—	Ophthalmia	2	—
Cholera Asiatica	4	3	Orchitis	4	—
Colica	2	—	Paralysis	5	—
Contusions	4	—	Phthisis	6	—
Debility	1	1	Pneumonia	3	—
Delirium tremens	6	2	Rheumatism	20	2
Diarrhœa	7	—	Scorbutus	7	1
Dislocation	1	1	Spinal Disease	1	—
Dysentery	64	27	Stricture of Urethra	2	—
Febris intermittens	51	4	Syphilis, primary	33	—
Febris remittens	1	—	Syphilis, secondary	7	—
Fractures	6	—	Ulcers	11	—
Gastritis	1	—	Variola	12	6
Gonorrhœa	2	—	Wounds, gunshot	2	—
Hepatitis	7	1	Wounds, incised	1	—
Hernia	3	—	Other diseases	7	—
Heart Disease	3	—			
Carried over	165	39	Total	288	48

Mortality 16⅔ per cent.

HONG KONG.

THE POLICE.

Table showing the Admissions into Hospital and Deaths during the Year 1858.

Month.	European.		Indian.		Chinese.		Total Admissions.	Total Deaths.
	Admissions.	Deaths	Admissions.	Deaths	Admissions.	Deaths		
January	2	—	25	—	1	—	28	—
February	4	—	4	1	—	—	8	1
March	3	—	7	—	2	—	12	—
April	5	—	10	—	1	—	16	—
May	4	—	13	—	—	—	17	—
June	7	—	14	1	3	1	24	2
July	5	1	32	—	1	—	38	1
August	4	—	27	1	3	—	34	1
September	8	—	17	—	1	—	26	—
October	3	—	18	—	—	—	21	—
November	3	—	11	1	—	—	14	1
December	3	1	20	—	1	—	24	1
Totals	51	2	198	4	13	1	257	7

Table showing Rate of Sickness and Mortality in the Hong Kong Police Force in the Year 1858:—

Strength.	Total Sick.	Total Deaths.	Rate of Sickness.	Rate of Mortality.
279	257	7	92.11 per cent.	2.50 per cent.

METEOROLOGICAL TABLE.

Showing the range of the Thermometer and Barometer, Direction of the Wind, Rain fall, &c.

Month.	Thermometer.			Barometer.			Wind.	Weather.
	Max.	Med.	Min.	Max.	Med.	Min.		
January	66	62	50	29·94	29·89	29.83	N.E. & E.	Rain 15 days, 2·80 inches; only a few fine days.
February	67	63	57	29·95	29·90	29.86	E. & N.E.	Rain 0·28, 5 slight showers.
March	75	67	59	29·85	29·77	29.75	E.N.E.	Rain 18 days, 3·69 inches; overcast.
April	80	71	66	29·82	29·77	29.73	E.S.E.	Rain 6 days, 0·71 inches; generally fine.
May	81	78	75	29·70	29·66	29.64	E.—S.W.—S.E.	Rain 22 days, 15·45 inches; a few fine days.
June	86	82	79	29·61	29·57	29.54	S.W.—S.E.	Rain 19 days; 27·91 inches; heavy thunder from 22d to 25th—18·50 inches rain fell in three days; latter part fine.
July	91	84	78	29·97	29·83	29.70	S W.—S.E.	Rain 21 days, 6·37 inches.
August	91	84	78	29·94	29·69	29.57	S.W.-S.S.W.-S.E.	Rain 17 days, 12·07 inches.
September	90	83	72	30·12	29·80	29.67	S.W.-S.E.-N.E.	Rain 16 days, 5·42 inches.
October	82	78	69	29·92	29·70	29.64	S.W.—E.—N.E.	Rain 0·54, clear, fine.
November	77	66	60	30·09	29·91	29.78	N.E.-SW.-E.N.E.	Rain 0·15.
December	72	65	59	30·00	29·87	29.75	E.N.E.—N.W.	Rain 0·14; several days cloudy, overcast.

I have to add a few observations with regard to the Central Police Station, the Civil Hospital, and the Gaol.

The drainage of the Central Police Station is in a very unsatisfactory state, and requires immediate amendment. It seems that the station is entirely surrounded by a drain which has not a sufficient fall into the sewer, and that the contents of two privies pass into this drain, and must remain there for a considerable time.

Such an arrangement cannot but be injurious to the health of the many persons who inhabit the station, and I have myself in the summer several times noticed a most offensive effluvium to arise from it.

The Superintendent of Police has, I believe, called the attention of the Surveyor General to the matter.

I need not dilate upon the necessity which exists for the enlargement of the present Gaol, and the improvement of the hospital accommodation therein, as the Government is fully alive to it, and has already appropriated funds for the purpose.

A large and commodious house situate at West Point, on a site which, as far as sanitary matters are concerned, is unobjectionable, has been purchased by the Government for a Civil Hospital. On the fitness of the building for this purpose I cannot now report, as its former owners have not as yet vacated it.

T. A. CHALDECOTT,
Acting Colonial Surgeon.

Enclosure 3. in No. 18.

HONG KONG.

Encl. 3. in No. 18.

No. 35. GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.

His Excellency the Governor is pleased to direct the publication of the following letter and return from the Superintendent of Police, in explanation of a portion of the Colonial Surgeon's Report, which appeared in the Government Gazette, of the 19th ultimo.

By order,

W. T. MERCER,
Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Victoria, Hong Kong,
8th April 1859.

No. 24.

SIR, Police Department, Victoria, Hong Kong, 5th April 1859.

I HAVE the honour to bring to your knowledge for the information of his Excellency the Governor, that perceiving from the Colonial Surgeon's Report for 1858, published in Government Gazette of the 19th ultimo, that the statistical returns referring to sickness and mortality in the police force of the colony did not clearly exhibit the actual amount of sickness as compared with strength of force, I wrote to the Acting Colonial Surgeon on the subject, enclosing a return compiled from the daily state of sick. The substance of my note was, that although his statistics were fully comprehended by him and myself, that they were likely to lead to erroneous conclusions by the casual observer; and that as the actual amount of sickness had been so remarkably small when the calibre of the force and its duties were considered, and more especially when placed in juxta-position with the amount of sickness in the military forces in the colony, that I considered it very desirable that the return should be clear and explicit. With this view I enclosed the return before alluded to, and begged that he would forward it with his remarks thereon, to the Honourable the Colonial Secretary, to be considered as an addendum to the yearly report before specified.

The Acting Colonial Surgeon replied to my note (of his note I enclose a copy), promising to comply with my request.

From a verbal communication with you, I ascertained that the return has not been forwarded; the cause I am assured being that the Acting Colonial Surgeon forgot the subject, having to occupy himself in making arrangements for his passage to England by last mail.

I have, therefore, the honour to lay the return before you for the information of his Excellency.

I have, &c.
C. MAY,
Superintendent of Police.

Honourable W. T. Mercer, Esq.,
Colonial Secretary.

RETURN of MEN SICK during the year 1858, inclusive of trifling Cases not admitted into Hospital:—

Month.	No. of Men sick.	No. of Days sick.	Remarks.
January	30	147	
February	21	89	
March	17	89	
April	20	126	
May	28	130	Total average Strength of Force—279.
June	19	99	
July	43	246	Total Mortality during Year—7.
August	39	276	
September	40	269	
October	31	188	
November	24	227	
December	32	264	
	344	2,150	

Showing an average of sick, as compared with average strength of force, of $5 \cdot \frac{88}{100}$ per diem, or average daily sick of 2·6 per cent.

C. MAY,
Superintendent of Police.

LABUAN.

LABUAN.

No. 19.

No. 19.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor EDWARDES to the Right Honourable Sir EDWARD BULWER LYTTON, Bart., M.P.

(No. 10.)

Government Offices, Labuan,
27th April 1859.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to enclose the Blue Book for the year 1858 for the Colony of Labuan.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GEORGE EDWARDES,
Governor.

To the Right Hon. Sir E. B. Lytton, Bart.,
&c. &c. &c.

MEDITERRANEAN POSSESSIONS AND THE IONIAN ISLANDS.

GIBRALTAR

GIBRALTAR.

No. 20.

No. 20.

EXTRACT from a DESPATCH from Lieut.-General Sir J. FERGUSSON, accompanying Blue Book of Gibraltar for the year 1858.

"I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the Blue Book for the year 1858, the accuracy of which has been certified by the Acting Colonial Secretary.

"2. The revenue shows a decrease of 1,949*l.* 12*s.* 9*d.* from that of the former year 1857.

"3. The chief decrease has been on the duty on spirits, 1,332*l.* 8*s.* 3¼*d.*, and on the rent of wine houses, viz., 755*l.* 1*s.* 8*d.*

"4. This is accounted for by the diminished trade of the place, the greater import of malt liquor, the reduced price and consequent increased consumption thereof, more especially by the troops.

"5. Notwithstanding this decrease from the revenue of the two previous years of 1856–57, yet there is an increase over that of many of those preceding, whilst the expenditure has been lessened, and will be still further reduced if the proposed changes in the colonial and police departments are carried out.

"6. At the end of the year I had paid the remainder of the debt due to the Imperial Treasury, except 532*l.* sterling, which sum was since paid on 19th January 1859.

"7. I have been enabled also to make many important improvements in the fortress, amongst which the new Post Office has been finished, at a cost of 2,274*l.* 15*s.* 0*d.* The rent received by the local revenue is 150*l.* sterling per annum.

"8. A side entrance from the city to the market and waterport has been made, to the great comfort and convenience of the troops and inhabitants.

"9. The stone jetty near the Bay-side Barrier has been extended, to the great advantage of trade.

"10. The market has been improved by the erection of new sheds, and has produced a corresponding increase of revenue.

"11. A handsome column, supporting a colossal bust of Lord Heathfield, has been erected in the Alameda Gardens.

"12. The new rates and duties of the port department, confirmed by Order in Council dated 5th June 1858, has been more equitable and just than the former one, and is likely to produce a better revenue.

"13. The drainage of the town has been ameliorated by large pipes, carrying the sewerage beyond the breakwater.

"14. The alterations and additions to the convict establishment will soon be completed, and the Admiralty works at the new mole and naval tank are steadily progressing."

MALTA.

No. 21.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir J. GASPARD LE MARCHANT to his Grace the Duke of NEWCASTLE.

(No. 106.)

MY LORD DUKE, Palace, Valletta, 21st September 1859.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the Blue Book of Malta for the year 1858.

2. I regret it is not so complete or correct as I would have wished it to be.

3. A portion of the statistical information I find, on examination, to be given on data insufficient to be depended upon, and there are errors in the Auditor General's accounts, which, from the originals having been already forwarded to England, I could not alter, but which I have pointed out, and, as far as possible, explained.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. GASPARD LE MARCHANT.

The Right Hon. the Duke of Newcastle,
&c. &c. &c.

MEMORANDUM to accompany the Blue Book of Malta for 1858.

THE gross revenue of Malta during the five years immediately preceding 1858 was as follows, in round numbers :—

1853 -	£123,305.	1856 - -	£141,168
1854 -	123,771.	1857 - -	132,861
1855 -	126,738.	Fractions -	3
Yearly average - -	£129,569.		

The gross receipt of revenue for the year 1858 is 142,382*l.* 10*s.* 4¾*d.*, being in round numbers 9,700*l.* more than that of 1857. A large portion of this increase is accounted for by receipts of an extraordinary nature, viz. :—

Sale of the hull of the steam dredger - - - -	£821	11	4
Proceeds of sale of jewellery, &c., deposited in the Monte di Pietà, during the plague - - - - -	183	15	0
Sale of dilapidated houses - - - - -	94	0	0
Quarantine dues - - - - - -	404	1	1
	£1,503	7	5

and the subsidy from the Imperial Treasury for dredging the harbours, viz., 2,590*l.*, which did form an item in the receipts of 1857. Deducting these items, the increase of receipts in 1858 over those in 1857 would be in round numbers 5,003*l.*, of which 4,530*l.* are under the head of customs.

3. The following provision was made for the expenditure of the year :—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
By general estimates - - - -	129,441	0	4
„ Supplemental estimates - - - -	18,912	11	6
„ Unexpended balances of former years, reserved under the authority of the Secretary of State - -	14,594	15	3¾
Balance of the proceeds of the sale of certain building sites, set apart for disoccupation of places abutting on the fortifications - - - -	2,498	6	9
Total provision	£165,446	13	10¾

4. The actual expenditure of the year was 129,780*l.* 11*s.* 8*d.* leaving a difference of 12,601*l.* 18*s.* 8¾*d.* in favour of the revenue. This balance is partly attributable to the extraordinary receipts above mentioned, the comparative diminution in dredging

MALTA.

expenses in consequence of the defective state of the steam dredger, and to the change in the mode of meeting the deficiencies in the estimates, namely, by special advances to be brought to account in the following year instead of by adjustment from savings in the current year.

5. The financial condition of Malta at the close of 1858 is clearly shown by the following statement:—

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Total receipts—Local - -	142,350	1	8¾			
Agent - -	32	8	8			
				142,382	10	4¾
Total expenditure—Local - -	£126,239	17	4			
Agent -	3,540	14	4			
				129,780	11	8
Balance in favour of revenue - - - -				£12,601	18	8¾
Add surplus capital on 1st January 1858— Local - -	£43,260	19	11¾			
Agent -	696	6	7			
				43,957	6	6¾
Surplus capital on 31st December 1858 - -				£56,559	5	3½
Deduct:—						
Balance of proceeds of sale of certain building sites for a special purpose	2,496	6	9			
Balance of special services under the direction of the Secretary of State, reserved under the express directions of His Excellency the Governor - -	265	14	2¾			
The moiety of the balance of dredging services, which is due to the Imperial Government - -	1,128	16	10¾			
Amount required to meet expenses incurred in 1858, under special advances to be brought to account in 1859 - - - -	2,842	14	7¼			
				6,733	12	5¾
Available surplus on 1st January 1859 - - -				£49,825	12	9¾

6. The following statement shows the condition of the annual provision made for dredging the harbours, in equal parts of 2,500*l.* each from the local revenue and the Imperial funds:—

		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Provision from Imperial Government in 1856 -	£2,500						
in 1858 -	2,500						
		5,000	0	0			
Provision from local revenue in 1857 -	£2,500						
in 1858 -	2,500						
		5,000	0	0			
					10,000	0	0
Expenditure in 1857 (the dredging services under the joint provision having commenced in 1857, the sum received in 1856 from Imperial funds is carried to the account of that year) - - -		5,106	15	0			
Expenditure in 1858 (deducting 40*l.* 1*s.* 8*d.*, being for services not properly chargeable against the joint provision for dredging) -		2,635	11	2½			
					7,742	6	2½
Balance unavailable at close of 1858 -					£2,257	13	9½

The moiety of which balance is held to the credit of the Imperial Government towards the expense of dredging service in 1859.

7. The estimates for 1858 were framed before it was intimated that the sums provided in the estimates for the year should not be available after its expiration, and it was consequently necessary to meet many of the expenses for 1858 from unexpended balances of former years.

Lists of these balances were forwarded to the Secretary of State and received his sanction. In the present year provision is made for services on works not included in the general estimates by supplemental votes, by which means the expenditure of the year will be brought to bear more direct reference to the estimates. The only exception to this arrangement is a balance of 265*l.* 14*s.* 2¾*d.* under the head of Special Services, under direction of the Secretary of State, which have been reserved for 1859 by express directions of his Excellency the Governor.

8. It must also be observed, that prior to 1858 it was the practice in Malta to close the Agent General's accounts on the 30th of September. In the financial statements for 1858 they are closed on the 1st of December, in accordance with the spirit of the Treasury instructions on the subject. The Agent General's accounts, therefore, for the last quarter of 1857 are not included in the above return of the expenditure of the year, and an abstract is appended showing the amount expended by the Agent General in that period, and the classification of the items.

AGENT GENERAL'S ACCOUNT of EXPENDITURE from 1st October to 31st December 1857.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Establishments—Agent General - -	65	12	6			
„ Sundry Services - -	9	4	4			
				74	16	10
Pensions - - - - -	-		-	1,084	16	5
Education (exclusive of establishments)	-		-	24	6	11
Miscellaneous Services—Fire engine* -	86	14	0			
„ Letters Patent† -	1	10	0			
				88	4	0
Special services under the direction of the Secretary of State :—						
Microscope‡ - - - - -	50	0	0			
Printing presses‡ - - - -	23	18	4			
				73	18	4
				£1,346	2	6

The receipts, however, in 1858 are sufficient to cover the above-mentioned expenditure in addition to the total expenditure of the year.

(Signed) R. C. LEGH,
Auditor General.

To his Grace the Duke of Newcastle,
&c. &c. &c.

March 30th, 1859.

* Voted in 1857.
† Refunded in Malta.
‡ Sanctioned by the Secretary of State.

Ionian Islands.

IONIAN ISLANDS.

No. 22.

No. 22.

Copy of a DESPATCH from the Lord High Commissioner to his Grace the Duke of Newcastle.

(No. 168.)

My Lord Duke, Corfu, December 19, 1859.

1. I have the honour to transmit to your Grace the Report on the Blue Book of 1858.

2. I regret that there should have been so long a delay in furnishing your Grace with this document. It is owing to the difficulty experienced in obtaining from the different custom houses of the Islands the detailed returns, which appear for the first time in the Blue Book of 1858. These were not complete till the beginning of November, when Mr. Wolff, whose duty it is to prepare the Report, was forced to repair to England, and to delay the preparation of the documents till his return.

I have, &c.

His Grace the Duke of Newcastle, (Signed) H. K. STORKS.
&c. &c. &c.

Report on the Blue Book for the Financial Year 1858, ending 31st January 1859.

Revenue.

Increase.

The revenue of 1858 shows a rich and unprecedented increase in the resources of the Ionian States. Compared with the year immediately preceding, which produced a revenue of 110,310*l.*, the increase of 1858 may be considered as extraordinary. The surplus of 1858 is only 20,000*l.* short of the double of the income of 1857; and the gross income of 1858, 201,275*l.* 11*s.* 5*d.*, is equal to more than two-thirds of the aggregate income produced in the preceding biennium of 1856 and 1857, those years having shown an increase of 29,507*l.* over the biennium 1854-1855.

The augmentation thus obtained in 1858 is principally owing to the increase in the export duty on the oil, which, as was contemplated in the Report on the Blue Book of 1857, has amply compensated for the deficiency in the revenue of that year. Out of the total increase of 90,964*l.* 13*s.* 6*d.*, the export duty on olive oil alone gives an item of 69,956*l.* 9*s.* 8*d.*

The increased amount of export duties on currants, wines, and other island produce is comparatively trifling; but the prosperity indirectly resulting from the magnificent oil crop is sufficiently demonstrated by the increasing revenue derived from customs and import duties. The only items of decrease worthy of notice are the slight diminution of 188*l.* on the import duties on foreign wines and spirits, the result of an improved system of manufacture in the islands, and a falling off in the postal revenue, attributed to a reduction in the post office tariff.

Expenditure.

Increase.

In the items of increased expenditure is to be found 12,000*l.*, the difference between 19,000*l.* and 31,000*l.*, for the military contribution, as in the year 1858, was paid not only the fixed annual sum of 25,000*l.*, but the arrears of the former year, amounting to 6,000*l.*

An increase also appears under the heads of "Civil and Judicial Establishments," as voted in the Session of 1857, under the head "Education," owing to an augmentation in the number of "Schoolmasters," under that of Public Works, for expenses incurred in sanitary improvements at Corfu, and also under the head of "Packet Service," for the cost of repairs to the Ionian steamer.

The increase in the contingent expenditure arises principally from the payment of an indemnity for property purchased by the Government in the Fort of Santa Maura, and from the cost of translating codes; exceptional and extraordinary expenses. When it is observed, however, that this extraordinary outlay, amounting to more than 2,000*l.*, has

produced an increase under the contingent head of expenditure of only 445*l.*, it may be seen that a considerable permanent saving has been effected.

Decrease.

The only item worthy of remark is that of 825*l.*, under the head Legislative Assembly; that body having sat only five days in the course of this financial year.

Local Revenues.

The local revenues which, as pointed out in the Report of last year, are subject to the same fluctuations as the general income, show an increase of 9,593*l.*, from 29,960*l.* to 39,553*l.*

The roads' duties, viz., a tax of 1½ per cent. ad valorem on exports, is nearly doubled; the income derived from this source being in 1857 6,374*l.*, in 1858 13,032*l.* The revenue from municipal lands has shown a favourable change, having arisen from 3,946*l.* in 1857, to 8,577*l.* in 1858. Much, however, has yet to be effected in the collection of the municipal revenues derived from this latter branch, and it is thought that a thorough survey of the municipal property and a fair estimation of its value would go far to replenish the municipal chest.

The increase in the inter-insular duty on native spirits and wines, points out the cause of the decrease before noticed in the import duties on those of foreign manufacture, and is a favourable indication of the progress of the Islands in this particular.

The export duty on soap from Zante, and the fees on arm licences, show, by their increase, the augmented activity of Ionian manufactures, and an advance in the general prosperity of the Islands for this year.

Decrease.

A considerable decrease is to be observed in the produce of the salines and the salt monopoly. This is owing to two causes, viz., the high price of salt in 1857, occasioned by a great demand for that article at the close of the war with Russia, and the failure of the salt crop in 1858 in Santa Maura.

Local Expenditure.

While the revenue has been on the increase, the local expenditure shows a saving on the preceding year of 4,054*l.*, and this in the most satisfactory manner. A large saving has been effected in the interest on loans and other incidental expenses, while an increase may be found in the items "Salaries of Establishments," "Hospitals and Charities," and in other legitimate modes of applying public money.

Public Debt.

The public debt, at the end of the financial year 1856, had amounted to 230,486*l.*, at the close of the financial year 1857 to 241,427*l.* At the close of the year 1858 it was reduced to 213,661*l.*, the payment of a debt of 16,000*l.* to the Ionian bank, and of 8,000*l.* to Messrs. Glyn & Co., forming the principal items of reduction.

Military Contribution.

The whole sum of 25,000*l.*, contributed by the Ionian Government annually for military protection, was paid in the year 1858, together with the arrears left unpaid in the preceding year amounting to 6,000*l.*

Population.

The year 1858 shows under this head an increase of 1,940 males and 801 females, a gross increase of 2,741.

This is doubtless owing to the prosperity of the year, which has obviated the necessity of temporary emigration. A decrease in mortality, and an increase in the number of marriages and births, is also a satisfactory phase of the social condition of the Islands in this year.

Education.

The number of scholars in the different schools and places of education in the islands exhibits a total increase of *six hundred and ninety-two* male and female; but it is observed that out of this number the students of a higher order bear a very slight proportion.

Ionian Islands.

The University, which in the time of Lord Guilford held a great position, and attracted a large number of scholars, now boasts only 47 matriculated students. Nor can this be wondered at. In Lord Guilford's time the University received from his private income a large annual subsidy, in addition to the sum granted by Government for its support.

No Educational Establishment existed at Athens, and the facilities of access to Continental Universities were rare. Since that time the independence of Greece has enabled that country to maintain a University of its own, which has attracted a great proportion of the youth of these islands.

Moreover, a legacy amounting to more than 2,000*l.* a year, bequeathed in 1840, for the purpose of promoting the education of Ionian youth in foreign establishments, has gone far to provide for them a higher course of gratuitous instruction than can be obtained, with its limited resources, in the University of Corfu.

What is really required in the Ionian Islands is a thorough reorganization on a sound and solid basis of the system of primary and secondary education. According to the existing arrangement, the sum voted for public instruction, 12,000*l.*, is diffused into so many different channels, as to produce a result certainly not adequate to the expenditure.

The schoolmasters in country districts are remunerated by salaries so small as to be almost ludicrous, and whenever remedies have been applied they have generally ended in the increase of the number, rather than of the pay and efficiency of teachers.

A Lyceum or public school exists in each Island, and this, carefully maintained, would go far to promote the diffusion of education in these States, by giving a sound course of instruction to those not destined for a learned profession, or by procuring good places for those who may afterwards wish to complete their studies in a foreign University.

Imports and Exports.

The aggregate imports of the year 1858 amount to the sum of 1,323,808*l.* 5*s.*, showing an increase of 231,757*l.*; and the exports to 972,474*l.* 14*s.*, showing an augmentation of 200,836*l.*

The absence of specific returns in the Blue Book of 1857 is now supplied, and in a future Report it will be attempted to enter into some comparative examination of the fluctuations of trade.

Agriculture.

The very full description given in the last Blue Book of the agricultural state of the Islands, obviates the necessity of any extended remark on this subject in the present Report.

It need only be observed, that the returns of 1858 exhibit a gradual improvement, both in agriculture and manufactures; nevertheless it must be regretted that a large quantity of land, particularly in the Island of Corfu, still lies waste and uncultivated.

Legislation.

An extraordinary Session of the Legislature was opened on the 25th of January, six days before the expiration of the past financial year. No Legislative Act was passed.

Gaols, &c.

The total number of prisoners in confinement during the present year shows considerable diminution, the natural consequence of an increased amount of labour and prosperity.

General.

The year 1858 is, however, as has been before stated, without precedent, and although it is satisfactory to observe that the resources of the islands maintain a gradual progress, the abundance with which they have been favoured in 1858 can by no means be taken as a criterion of their future fortunes.

H. Drummond Wolff,
Secretary to the Lord High Commissioner.

Palace, Corfu,
December 10, 1859.

HELIGOLAND.

[No Report has been received.]

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

No. 23.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Governor Moore to the Right Honourable Sir Edward Bulwer Lytton, Bart, M.P.

(No. 9.)

Government House, Stanley, Falkland Islands,
6th February 1859.

Sir,

I have the honour to enclose herein the Blue Book for the year 1858.

2. The past year has, I believe, forwarded in great measure the objects for which the colonization of the islands was originally established, and as a necessary consequence the interests of the settlers.

3. The arrival of the small garrison in January relieved the government from the inconvenience of having no force wherewith (if necessary) to compel obedience to law on the part of unruly crews of merchant vessels, and the possibly serious consequences which might at any moment have flowed from such a state of things. Nor was this a danger purely imaginary. Within eight months after the arrival of the garrison, a British ship put in here with her whole crew in a state of open and pertinacious mutiny, followed by a riot on shore when the law was put in force. Nothing but the hopelessness of resistance to the power of the government reduced the men to submission. But if that power had been limited as before to a single constable with such aid as he might casually pick up, it is hardly probable that the law could have been carried out without serious embarrassment, and certainly the government could not have afforded to the master the efficient aid he came here to seek.

4. I am glad to report that the men seem well satisfied with their position. They have made great advances in the cultivation of their gardens; their children readily obtain the employment suited to their age, the younger ones attend the school regularly, and all may, if they choose, save sufficient money to better their position by employing their leisure hours in the work which is always abundant in a young colony.

5. With respect to the school, it is my intention, in conjunction with the commanding officer of the garrison, to submit a plan for the employment of a schoolmistress. At present there are 32 boys and 30 girls, who are all in the charge of an old pensioner of the marines; but I apprehend that great advantage would be gained if the girls were placed under the charge of a respectable woman, who might teach needlework and the duties of a household in addition to reading and writing. I allude to this subject here as the enclosed tables show the facts which I think justify my opinion, but I shall reserve the details for a separate despatch by the next mail. In the meanwhile it is agreeable to note that no objection is entertained against the school on the score of religious principles, but that children of parents who belong to the churches of England, Rome, and Scotland attend equally with the children of Dissenters.

6. The tables called "Agriculture," also show a most satisfactory progress. In Stanley the amount of ground reclaimed for horticulture has increased to twenty acres, in which a very fair quantity of produce is raised which meets a ready sale in the colony and among shipping. But the increase of sheep is the most gratifying, as it must silence at once all the objections raised against sheep farming as unsuited to the climate. There are now nearly eight thousand sheep in this island, the greater part of which belong to the Cheviot and Southdown breeds. The old South American long-legged sheep are dying out. The carcases, averaging 65lbs. each, find a good market in Stanley; and I am

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

informed that the last wool sent home commanded a very remunerative price in the London market. Sheep bid fair to become one of the staple commodities of the island, and they will occupy lands which are not suitable for horned cattle.

7. The advantages of the port in a long voyage were fully illustrated a few days ago on the occasion of the visit of the "Thames City," a freight ship, having on board 120 officers and men (many with their wives and families) bound round Cape Horn to British Columbia. She obtained a supply of fresh water-ballast necessary for the trim of the ship, and fresh meat. The soldiers obtained for themselves and their families bread, milk, vegetables, and many articles of comfort, and enjoyed, what was equally necessary in so crowded a vessel, several days on shore before encountering the most stormy part of their long voyage.

8. The land sales during the year amounted to 138*l.*; and two new cattle districts were leased, increasing the land revenue to 80*l.* from long leases, and about 40*l.* from short tenures.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS MOORE, Governor.

The Right Hon. Sir E. B. Lytton, Bart.,
&c. &c. &c.

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